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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-001 CONTENTS *3 January 1994*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

- Golan Agreement Said Reached in Secret Talks *[Jerusalem TV]* 1
  - Israeli Academic on Syrian Document *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 2 Jan]* 1
- 'Arafat's Reply to Cairo Agreements Reported *[HA'ARETZ 2 Jan]* 1
  - Israeli Source on Sha'th Letter *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 2
- PLO Sends Own 'Implementation' Draft to Israel *[AFP]* 2
  - PLO 'Compromise' Proposal Detailed *[JORDAN TIMES 1 Jan]* 3
  - PLO Makes 'Slight Amendments' *[MENA]* 4
- Official Denies 'Abbas Approved Cairo Proposals *[AL-DUSTUR 3 Jan]* 4
- Sha'th Denies 'Existence' of Cairo Agreement *[Jerusalem International]* 4
  - Says Joint Paper 'Israeli Fabrication' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 5
- PLO Envoy: Working Paper 'Mere Understanding' *[MENA]* 5
- Contacts Under Way To Clear 'Misunderstanding' *[MENA]* 6
- Sha'th Rejects Israeli Ultimatum, Escalation *[London MBC TV]* 6
  - Rejects Israeli 'Blackmail' on Talks *[AFP]* 6
- Musa, Sha'th Make Statements After Meeting *[MENA]* 7
- Musa To Arrive in Israel To Help Bridge Gaps *[AL-MANAR 3 Jan]* 7
- Jordan Insists on Securing Water Rights in Talks *[JORDAN TIMES 3 Jan]* 7

Palestinian Affairs

- 'Arafat Delivers Fatah Anniversary Address *[Algiers VOP]* 8
  - Speaks at Martyrs' Cemetery *[Algiers VOP]* 10
  - Addresses People of Jericho *[Algiers VOP]* 11
- 'Arafat 'Optimistic' on Differences With Israel *[Sanaa VOP]* 11
- 'Arafat Discusses Agreement, Israeli Statements *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 12
- 'Arafat Queried on Disagreements With Israel *[Cairo International]* 13
- 'Arafat: Jordan Supports Palestinian Stand *[AFP]* 15
- PLO Team To Visit Amman, Sign Economic Accords *[AL-WATAN 2 Jan]* 15
- Envoy: Nothing To Prevent 'Arafat-al-Asad Meeting *[MENA]* 15

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

- Prime Minister Malek Favors Strong State *[Paris International]* 17
  - On Situation in Algeria *[Algiers TV]* 17
- 'Fundamentalist' Killed; Police Attacked *[AFP]* 17
- Security Services Announce Fatalities, Arsons *[Algiers Radio]* 17

Egypt

- Mubarak Receives Phone Call From King Husayn *[MENA]* 18
- Mubarak Phones Saudi King on Peace Issue *[MENA]* 18
- Newspaper Criticizes Rabin's Remarks *[MENA]* 18
- Report on Israeli Contacts on Gas Exports *[AL-'ARABI 27 Dec]* 18
- Libyan Opposition Urges Firmness on Al-Kikhya *[AFP]* 18
- Israel's Mosad Said Behind Libyan's Abduction *[AL-SHA'B 24 Dec]* 19
- Al-Alfi: 'Terrorist' Plans for 31 Dec Foiled *[MENA]* 19

- Ministry Statement on Raid on Asyut Island *[MENA]* 20
- Security Forces Kill 'Terrorists', Detain 2 *[MENA]* 20
- Columnist Urges Dialogue With Islamists *[AL-AHRAM 28 Dec]* 21
- People's Assembly Passes Unified Tax Bill *[Cairo Radio]* 21

Libya

- Al-Qadhdhafi Urges Vigilance Against 'Enemy' *[Tripoli TV]* 22
- Al-Qadhdhafi Warns of Return of Colonialism *[Libyan TV]* 23
- Al-Muntasir Denies Responsibility for Abduction *[AL-SHA'B 24 Dec]* 24
- Basic Peoples Congress Masses Demonstrate *[JANA]* 24

Sudan

- Government Orders British Ambassador Expelled *[Omdurman Radio]* 25
  - Government 'Will Not Withdraw' Decision *[Omdurman Radio]* 25
  - Commentary Views British 'Interference' *[Omdurman Radio]* 25
  - Decision 'Could be Reversed' *[MAP]* 26
- Foreign Minister Denies Attack on Eritrea *[SUNA]* 26
  - Denies Refugee Excursion Into Eritrea *[SUNA]* 26
- Council of Ministers Discuss Ties With Ethiopia *[Omdurman Radio]* 26
- Garang Rebels Accused of Attacking Refugee Camp *[Omdurman Radio]* 27
- Al-Bashir Urges Self-Reliance in 1 Jan Address *[Omdurman Radio]* 27

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

- UN: Iraqi Evacuation From Um Qasr Complete *[Kuwait TV]* 30
- Sentences Imposed for Collaboration With Iraqis *[KUNA]* 30
- Minister Denies Foreign Pressure on Sentencing *[KUNA]* 30
- Minister Views Conditions for Attending Summit *[MENA]* 30
- 'Source' Views Ties With 'Adversary' States *[KUNA]* 31

Saudi Arabia

- Fahd Replies to Clinton Cable on Shura Council *[SPA]* 31

Yemen

- Salih, al-Bid Reportedly Agree To Meet in Amman *[AL-ITTIHAD 28 Dec]* 31
  - More on Jordanian Mediation *[AKHIR KHABAR 30-31 Dec]* 31
- Salih Receives Message From UAE President *[Sanaa Radio]* 32
  - Message From Qatari Amir *[Sanaa Radio]* 32
- Al-Bid Criticizes Efforts To Undermine Unity *[Sanaa Radio]* 32

IRAQ

- Spokesman Denies Saddam Assassination Attempt *[AL-RA'Y 31 Dec]* 33
- 'Islamic Resistance' Takes Part of al-Madinah *[IRNA]* 33
- Further on Fighting Among Kurds in North 33
  - Barzani, Talabani Massing Forces *[Baghdad Radio]* 33
  - PUK Fighting 'Islamic Movement' *[IRNA]* 33
  - Correspondent Describes Fighting *[INA]* 33
  - PUK's 'Crimes' Condemned *[IRNA]* 34
  - Islamic Movement Claims Towns Seized *[Ankara TV]* 34
  - Talabani Preparing 'Large-Scale Attack' *[INA]* 34
- PUK Commentary on Victory Over Islamic Movement *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 34
- Turkish Paper on Islamic Movement in Kurdistan *[Istanbul SABAH 25 Dec]*. 35
- Paper Warns on 'Foreign Schemes' in Kurdistan *[INA]* 36
  - Official on Activities of 'Agent Groups' *[INA]* 36

- Kurdistan's Legislative Council Holds Meeting *[Baghdad Radio]* 37
- Oil Ministry Source Ridicules Kuwaiti Claims *[INA]* 37

ISRAEL

- Rabin on 'Arafat's 'Retreat,' Syrian Contacts *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
- Rabin Comments on Negotiations, 'Understandings' 38
  - 'Palestinians Should Start Sweating Now' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
  - 'Understandings' Must Be Starting Point *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
  - Rabin Details 'Arafat's Demands *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
- Rabin, Peres Reject Taba Talks for 'Time Being' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
  - Israel Sends Reply to Tunis *[Jerusalem TV]* 40
- Peres Confirms Taba Talks Not To Resume 3 Jan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
- Peres: PLO Rebuttal Part of 'Process' *[Jerusalem New Channel TV]* 40
- Peres: No Retreat on Document of Principles *[Jerusalem TV]* 41
- Peres Considers Impasse 'Arafat's 'Problems' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
- Peres on Talks With PLO, Syrian Involvement *[Budapest Radio]* 43
- Peres Says No Withdrawal on Security *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 43
- 'Senior' Official on Possible Accord Failure *[AFP]* 44
- Poll Shows 60 Percent Favor Promotion of Talks *['AL-HAMISHMAR 2 Jan]* 44
- Leaflet Urges Soldiers To Act on 'IDF Takeover' *['AL-HAMISHMAR 31 Dec]* 45
- Vatican Representative Signs Recognition Accord *[Rome TV]* 45
- Egypt Efforts on Israeli Nuclear Arms Viewed *[HA'ARETZ 30 Dec]* 45

JORDAN

- 'Arafat Arrives 30 Dec for Short Working Visit 47
  - 'Arafat Received by King *[Amman Radio]* 47
  - Talks Stress 'Clear' Coordination *[Amman TV]* 47
  - More on King-'Arafat Talks *[AL-RA'Y 31 Dec]* 47
  - Cabinet Discusses 'Arafat's Visit *[Amman Radio]* 47
- PLO's 'Abd-al-Shafi Arrives, Meets Leaders 47
  - Views Memorandum, Coordination *[Amman TV]* 47
  - Received by Prime Minister *[Amman Radio]* 48
  - Departs Amman After 3-Day Visit *[Amman Radio]* 48
- Prime Minister Receives PFLP Leader Habash *[Amman Radio]* 48
  - Habash Views al-Majali Meeting *[Amman TV]* 48
- King Addresses Officers on Palestinian Ties *[Amman TV]* 49
- Minister on King's Remarks on PLO Coordination *[Amman TV]* 51
- Palestinian Moves Urged To Protect Ties *[AL-DUSTUR 3 Jan]* 52
- Memorandums Exchanged With Vatican on Ties *[Amman Radio]* 52
- Islamic Action Front on Israeli-Vatican Accord *[AFP]* 53
- Israeli-Vatican Accord Termed 'Most Unfortunate' *[JORDAN TIMES 1 Jan]* 53

LEBANON

- Attempt To Assassinate al-Hirawi Uncovered *[VOL]* 54
  - Attempt on al-Hirawi Denied *[VOL]* 54
- Al-Murr: Al-Asad-Clinton Meeting 'Watershed' *[Beirut Radio]* 54
- Hizballah Leader on U.S. Stance on Detainees *[VOM]* 54
- Officials, Others React to Israeli-Vatican Ties 54
  - Buwayz Comments *[Beirut Radio]* 54
  - Denunciation From Islamic Groups *[AFP]* 54
  - Fadlallah Criticizes Move *[VOM]* 55
  - Junblatt Condemns 'Hostile Alliance' *[VOM]* 55
- Unknown Group Claims Attack on SLA *[AFP]* 55

SYRIA

- Spokesman Denies Secret Israeli Negotiations *[Damascus Radio]* 57
- Al-Asad Talks With Arab Leaders, Christopher *[Damascus Radio]* 57

Papers Preview al-Asad-Clinton Summit *[Damascus Radio]* 57

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

- Fighting Between Rabbani, Dostam Forces 58
  - Dostam Stripped of Powers *[Tehran Radio]* 58
  - Government Forces Foil Dostam Attack *[Islamabad TV]* 58
  - Rabbani Denies Radio Kabul Seized *[Islamabad International]* 58
  - Kabul Transmitter Down *[Tehran Radio]* 58
  - Dostam Forces Tighten Siege on Kabul *[Tehran Radio]* 58

India

- Belgian Release of JKLF Leader Questioned *[Delhi Radio]* 59
  - Belgium Rejects Extradition *[Delhi Radio]* 59
- Italian Foreign Minister Arrives 2 Jan *[Delhi Radio]* 59
- Troop Reduction Talks Begin With PRC *[Delhi Radio]* 59
- Rao Refuses Finance Minister's Resignation *[Delhi Radio]* 59
- Commentary Discusses Economy, Reform Measures *[Delhi International]* 59

Iran

- Turkmen President, Delegation Arrive on Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 60
  - Meeting With Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran TV]* 61
  - More on Delegation's Activities *[IRNA]* 61
- Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Arrives, Comments *[IRNA]* 62
  - Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran TV]* 62
- Armenian Minister Sends Velayati Note on Karabakh *[IRNA]* 62
- Gas Company Denies Plans To Supply Armenia *[IRNA]* 63
- Uzbek Minister Meets Official, Views Ties *[IRNA]* 63
- Foreign Ministry Offers Aid on Kabul Fighting *[Tehran Radio]* 63
  - Afghanistan Facing 'New Catastrophe' *[Tehran Radio]* 63
  - Dailies Urge Mediation *[IRNA]* 64
- Embassy Denies Pressuring France on Deportations *[Paris Radio]* 64
- Contacts With Greek 'Terrorist' Group Denied *[IRNA]* 64
- Foreign Ministry Welcomes India-Pakistan Talks *[IRNA]* 64
- Commentary: Israel Will Not Abide by Agreements *[Tehran Radio]* 64
  - Vatican Recognition Criticized *[Tehran International]* 65
- U.S., UN Seen 'Pressuring' North Korea *[TEHRAN TIMES 28 Dec]* 66
  - No End in Sight to U.S.-DPRK 'Crisis' *[Tehran Radio]* 66
- Refugees From Iraqi Marshes Entering Country *[IRNA]* 67
  - Number Reaches 1,250 *[IRNA]* 67
  - Iranians Also Returning *[IRNA]* 67
- Jannati Leads Prayers, Urges Obeying Khamene'i *[Tehran Radio]* 67
  - Friday Prayers in Qom *[Tehran TV]* 68
- Musavi-Ardebili Hospitalized After Stroke *[IRNA]* 68
  - Condition Improves *[Tehran Radio]* 68

Pakistan

- Foreign Minister Comments on Bhutto Visits *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
- Secretary-Level Talks With India Begin 69
  - Kashmir Debate Could End Dialogue *[Islamabad TV]* 69
  - Foreign Minister Cites Conditions *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
  - Foreign Minister 'Not Optimistic' *[Islamabad TV]* 70
  - Indian Foreign Secretary Arrives *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
  - Dixit Leaves for Karachi *[Islamabad International]* 71
  - Bhutto Receives Indian Secretary *[Islamabad TV]* 71
  - Dixit Terms Talks 'Satisfactory' *[Islamabad Radio]* 72

  - Kashmir Talks Conclude *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
  - Joint Statement Issued *[Islamabad TV]* 72
- Senate Demands India Withdraw From Kashmir *[Islamabad TV]* 73
- JKLF Leader Returns From Belgium *[Islamabad TV]* 73
  - Says Release Humiliates India *[Islamabad Radio]* 73
  - Criticizes Talks With India *[THE MUSLIM 1 Jan]* 73
- Islamabad Foreign Office Views Bomb Blasts *[Islamabad TV]* 74
- 'Deep Concern' Expressed Over Afghan Fighting *[Islamabad Radio]* 74

Arab-Israeli Talks

Golan Agreement Said Reached in Secret Talks

TA3012175093 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] U.S. and Arab sources stated today in Washington that Israelis and Syrians met in Europe secretly several times since last May and worked out an agreement on security arrangements and sovereignty on the Golan Heights. The sources added that the Israeli and Syrian personalities who participated in the meetings were civilians as well as former military personnel, including university professors and journalists. The sources said that the meetings were held in Oslo, London, and Rome and that eventually a one-page deocument was drawn up containing a solution to the disagreement between Israel and Syria over the sovereignty of the Golan Heights.

Israeli Academic on Syrian Document

TA0201110894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Jan 94 p 3

[Report by Tzvi Gilat]

[Text] "In a secret meeting between Israeli and Syrian representatives in Norway last October a joint, six-clause document was drafted. This document outlines Israeli and Syrian policy regarding a future peace agreement between the two countries." This was said by Dr. Yosi Olmert, an expert on Syria who participated in the meeting and was involved in the drafting of the document.

According to Olmert the contents of the document was brought to the knowledge of senior political circles, including Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and raised a lot of interest and hopes in Jerusalem and Washington. Olmert notes the October meeting was the last in a series of six meetings organized by an American fund named "Common Ground Research Fund" [name as published].

Olmert claims that due to leaks of the document no more meetings were held since October.

The Norway meetings were held under the auspices of Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst. Mr. Holst and his wife attended the opening of the meetings, which were held in the same Oslo castle in which the agreement of principles between Israel and the PLO was formulated.

The Israeli academics who participated in the meetings were: Professor Aharon Lev-Ran of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Dr. Dori Gold, Brigadier General (reserves) 'Amos Gilboa', and Dr. Yosi Olmert. The military commentator Ze'ev Schiff also attended one of the earlier meetings.

Two Syrians attended the meetings. One of them remains anonymous due to his sensitive position vis-a-vis the Syrian regime. The other is Professor 'Aziz Shuqri, dean of the Damascus University Law School. Shuqri, an expert of international renown, is known to be very close to the top Syrian political echelon.

"It is true that this was an academics' meeting, but the Syrian representatives can be seen to reflect the positions of the Syrian establishment," according to Olmert. Olmert claims that in a structured and rigid country like Syria people are not allowed to attend such meetings without the knowledge and authorization of the government. Syria, unlike Western states, does not have to take into consideration public opinion and the media. It does have a small group of persons, however, who are allowed to speak abroad and who serve as a sort of trial balloon for the future moves of the Syrian regime. The positions they express probably reflect the future positions of the Syrian regime.

Olmert reveals that an intensive 48-hour marathon of talks was held in Oslo last October which resulted in the joint document. This document caused a lot of interest in Israel due to several points:

—This is the first time the Syrians have provided full details regarding their concept of peace. From the document it clearly transpires that the Syrians understand full peace to include open borders, normalization, economic, trade, and cultural relations, embassies and consular relations.

—It is not stated in the document that during the withdrawal it will be necessary to evacuate all the Israeli settlements on the Golan Heights. It is stated that their status during the withdrawal will be subject to negotiations.

Two main points are not included in the document:

—The duration of withdrawal. It is clear that there are substantial gaps between Syria and Israel regarding this point. The Syrians expect Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights in three or four years; Israel unofficially believes the process should take much longer to complete.

—Security arrangements. Obviously this issue will prove a future bone of contention between Israel and Syria if and when they enter concrete negotiations. It is assessed that Syria will agree to mutual demilitarization of territories, but will not agree to a deep demilitarization of all the area from the future international border to Damascus.

'Arafat's Reply to Cairo Agreements Reported

TA0201114094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jan 94 p A2

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] The official reply of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the agreements made in Cairo last week were faxed to Israel in a two-page letter from Nabil Sha'th—chairman of the Palestinian delegation for the committee on the implementation of the Gaza- and Jericho-First agreement—to Sha'th's Israeli counterpart Major General Amnon Shahaq.

In the letter, Sha'th details Chairman 'Arafat's remarks regarding the border crossings and the territory of Jericho which were discussed in the Cairo meetings. At the conclusion of the letter, Sha'th asks Shahaq to meet him on 3 January in Taba to continue negotiations on other matters.

On the morning of 30 December, Sha'th sent a fax to Jerusalem in which he detailed the understandings made at the meetings of the Liaison Committee in Norway, France, and Egypt. The formulations were edited, but contained no substantive changes. In his second fax, sent in the evening of 30 December, Sha'th rejected the agreements described in the first fax, on 'Arafat's behalf. [passage omitted]

The PLO chairman demands that when Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region go through the border crossings, they are to be inspected at the Palestinian counter, and not even see Israeli officers and policemen when they enter the self-government district. He is willing to accept that residents of the West Bank, outside the Jericho region, undergo an Israeli inspection as well. [passage omitted]

'Arafat demands that a multinational force be present at the border crossings, and that a Palestinian policeman with a Palestinian flag be placed on the Jordan River bridges. [passage omitted]

In his reply, 'Arafat rejects the agreement regarding the size of the Jericho district, according to which the Palestinians will assume control over the Musa 'Alami farm, east of Jericho, the village of al-'Awja', and the Qarantal monastery—a total of 55 square km. The Cairo agreement stipulates that the self-government will be given management rights over religious affairs at the al-Nabi Musa site and the right of pilgrimage under a Palestinian flag to the Muratas site of Jesus' baptism. The Cairo agreements also spoke of the establishment of joint projects on the Dead Sea shores.

'Arafat demands that all the places mentioned in the Cairo draft be subject to full "administrative control" of the Palestinian authority: al-Nabi Musa, the baptism site, and an area on the north western shores of the Dead Sea. 'Arafat also wants to connect the Jordan crossings to Jericho with routes that will have a special status.

In his letter, Sha'th refers to "crossings," and not just to the Allenby Bridge. Israeli sources have said that the PLO wants similar status on the Damiya Bridge and, in the future, on the 'Abdallah Bridge, the reconstruction and reopening of which is currently being discussed. [passage omitted]

Israeli Source on Sha'th Letter

TA0301071994 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] A senior political [Israeli] source said this morning that the new PLO compromise contains nothing that could advance the negotiations. He was referring to the offer Nabil Sha'th sent last night to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, again by fax, since the prime minister said yesterday that everything should be presented in writing from now on. Jerusalem sources again explained that the talks will resume only on the basis of the Cairo agreements. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

The recent Palestinian offer of compromise, relayed last night to Israel, includes nothing that could lead to progress in the negotiations, a senior Israeli political source said this morning. He was referring to the letter which Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, faxed to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The document arrived last night around midnight and included a Palestinian compromise offer, in a PLO attempt to renew the Taba talks this week.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres reported the content of the offer to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Israeli sources again stressed that the messages relayed to 'Arafat's aides, through their fax machines, were unequivocal: We are not willing to hold negotiations about the Cairo agreements which, from Israel's point of view, are a basis for the resumption of the Taba talks.

Israeli sources stated that over the past 24 hours, Egypt also played an important role in the contacts with the Palestinians, mostly held by fax. Regarding the ridiculous claims by Sha'th that the document presented after the Cairo talks was not an Israeli-Palestinian agreement, Israeli sources said: Do not ask us; ask Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. He was with us in the same room.

Minister Yosi Sarid said that even the first document Sha'th sent to Rabin on 30 December—which included amendments to the document formulated in Cairo—indicates that a joint Israeli-PLO agreement was indeed made in Cairo. Had we wanted to write an Israeli position paper, Sarid said with a smile, I do not believe we would ask for an Egyptian or Palestinian advice. We could have done this alone at home.

PLO Sends Own 'Implementation' Draft to Israel

NC3012215593 Paris AFP in English 2106 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, Dec 30 (AFP)—The PLO has sent its own modified version of a working paper aimed at ending the deadlock on the launch of self-rule in the occupied territories, a Palestinian source said Thursday [30 December].

The source, declining to be named, said the paper was the Palestinian version of a draft understanding, details of which were released earlier the same day in Israel.

If Israel accepts the latest document, the negotiations could result in agreement within two or three weeks, he said.

The PLO earlier denied Israeli claims that they had drawn up a draft agreement on launching Palestinian autonomy and said negotiators will had to hammer out an accord.

"We are trying in good faith to reach an agreement but, unfortunately, we have not reached it," said PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th.

"We are going back to Taba in the old format of the negotiations," he told journalists, referring to the Egyptian Red Sea resort where the autonomy talks opened two months ago before moving to Cairo.

Egypt wound down its mediation efforts after a three-day meeting here of a liaison committee headed by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and executive committee member Mahmud 'Abbas for the PLO.

Sha'th refused to comment on a draft understanding and said: "Our agreement was not to publish anything and anybody who is publishing anything is violating the agreement."

An Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho, under the September 13 autonomy accord, was to have started on December 13 but the deadline passed because of three main stumbling blocks.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel are at loggerheads over the size of Jericho, the control of international crossing points and security for Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip.

According to Israel's draft, the size of an autonomous Jericho will be doubled from the original offer and the border crossings into Jordan and Egypt will be jointly manned but Israel would have the final say.

But PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said Thursday in Amman that his organisation had rejected the Israeli draft.

PLO 'Compromise' Proposal Detailed

JN0101092594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[By Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has asked for total control over crossing points to Jericho and Gaza and joint supervision of the other crossings with Israel as a compromise to break the deadlock over the implementation of Palestinian autonomy, PLO officials said on Friday [31 December].

The PLO demands were included in counter proposals that Palestinian negotiator Dr. Nabil Sha'th has conveyed to the Israeli government. Israeli officials have already declared that the government could consider its original proposals, put forward in Cairo last week, but will not accept to scrap them. [sentence as published]

The new Palestinian proposals according to PLO officials, are the following:

The Crossings

A: The Palestinian flag should be hoisted on all entrances to crossings points and borders.

B: Two separate crossing points to Jericho and Gaza, at King Husayn Bridge and Rafah respectively, totally controlled by the Palestinians.

C: Palestinian participation over the other crossing points.

Jericho

A: [as published] The area of Jericho extends from al-Nabi Musa to al-'Awja reaching the King Husayn Bridge. According to a senior PLO official in Tunis, the Palestinians are giving priority to access between Jericho and the bridge over the area under consideration.

"According to the accord it is a matter of time before the Israeli withdrawal from the Jericho district. But if they had control over the bridge, Jericho would have been like a detention camp" for Palestinian leadership.

The Gaza Strip

A: [as published] The Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip will be confined to the boundaries of the settlements only.

The Israeli proposals allow for Palestinian presence at one of two windows in one checking point around 500 metres inside the borders leaving the actual control in Israeli hands.

Furthermore, Palestinian travellers will have to be cleared by the Israeli window at the checkpoints before proceeding to the Palestinian window.

The Israeli plan also stipulates retaining control of "a three-metre-long security strip" between Jericho and the bridge. The Palestinian counter proposal flatly rejects it.

The city of Jericho, according to the Israeli proposal, will be connected with al-'Awja through a special narrow strip leaving all of the land around Jericho to the King Husayn Bridge, under Israeli control, while Palestinians will only administer the religious sites in al-Nabi Musa.

By confining Israeli control to within the boundaries of the settlements in the Gaza Strip, the PLO hopes to thwart Israeli attempts to connect the settlements in one "security zone." But some PLO officials warn that the Palestinians should not concede to Israeli demands to control land within the settlements' boundaries. "The land within the settlements' boundaries are controlled by Israel any way against our will," said one PLO official. "The settlements are illegal and we should continue to deal with them through the negotiations as such."

PLO Makes 'Slight Amendments'

NC3112201593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—An informed Palestinian source in Cairo has said that the Palestinian leadership introduced some slight amendments to minutes of an agreement with Israel recently worked out in Cairo by the Palestinian and Israeli delegations discussing the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Declaration of Principles.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, the source said most of the amendments concern the area of Jericho. The source said that the Israelis are sticking to their offer of 54 square km covering the Palestinian camps and some lands around Jericho city.

The source said the Palestinian amendments include the following:

First, al-Nabi Musa area should be under the supervision of the Palestinian authority.

Second, the al-Maghtis. The Israelis believe the area should not be part of the Jericho region during the interim stage, but the Palestinians want it to be under the Palestinian authority. The Israelis say the Palestinian flag cannot be raised over that area without annexing it.

Third, the Palestinians demanded the Musa al-'Alami area; the Israelis accepted this during the discussions.

Fourth, as regards al-Qurunful mountain, the Palestinians demand the right to approve joint Palestinian-Israeli projects there, and to approve projects with Jordan later.

Sixth [as received] The Palestinians demand that the international and foreign presence mentioned in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles be extended to the border crossings.

The Palestinian source stressed that the amendments did not affect the essence of the agreement laid out through the joint working minutes.

The draft working paper reached between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations in Cairo included several issues on foreign security and arrangements relevant to the border crossings.

According to the border crossings arrangements, there will be one terminal for arrivals and departures with two doors, one Palestinian and one Israeli, separated by a glass barrier. Palestinians residing in the West Bank and Gaza will pass through the Palestinian door and then move to the Israeli door. Electronic inspection will be used in a manner respecting the dignity of those who pass through.

The Palestinian-Israeli draft on the crossings also says that each side has a right to see the identity cards of any traveler and veto the entry of any person. Each side will also report anything suspicious to the other.

The draft exempts public Palestinian figures from crossings procedures and stresses that when there is a need for personal inspection of Palestinians, the Palestinian side will do the inspection in the presence of an Israeli observer.

Official Denies 'Abbas Approved Cairo Proposals

JN0301085694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Jan 94 p 29

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—A senior Palestinian official has denied Israeli media reports that Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, had approved a draft agreement proposed by Israel on the question of the crossings, the area of Jericho, and the implementation of the Oslo accord. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres presented the draft to the Palestinian delegation in Cairo last week.

The official said the Palestinian delegation told Peres it will convey these proposals to the Palestinian leadership to adopt an appropriate position. The Palestinian leadership rejected most of the proposals.

The official added that Israel tries, through its media and statements by its officials, to cause confusion among Palestinian ranks.

Sha'th Denies 'Existence' of Cairo Agreement

JN0201191594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, in Cairo, by Sa'id Mu'addi, in the studio, on 2 January—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, good evening.

[Sha'th] Good evening to you.

[Mu'addi] You have been holding intensive consultations and contacts. You have received a letter from the Israeli foreign minister. What is it about?

[Sha'th] The foreign minister's letter was in reply to one from us on 30 December. He indicated he was prepared to return for another round of talks in Taba. However, he makes this return conditional on our acceptance of what he called the Cairo agreement. Actually, we are ready to return to complete these negotiations tomorrow to hammer out an integrated pact to implement the Declaration of Principles agreement. We made it clear to Minister Peres that there is no Cairo agreement in existence. There are working papers that were drafted in Cairo. We are bound by the points on which we reached agreement. As for the points on which disagreement persists, we are ready to discuss them in Taba. That is what negotiations are about. We consolidate what was agreed upon and the pending issues may be pursued if we went to Taba, hopefully soon.

[Mu'addi] The prime minister stated today that the document of understanding worked out in Cairo had the approval of the Israeli and Palestinian sides.

[Sha'th] Let met put the record straight: There is no such thing as a document of understanding from Cairo. Minister Peres knows as much. On the night of 28 December, he drafted minutes written in longhand. On the following day we received a draft far removed from the minutes. On the third day, I sent him a clarification of this memorandum, including the points on which we reached agreement in Norway. I have not yet received word from him indicating his approval of any of these formulas. None of these formulas amount to a document of understanding. One is labelled minutes, the second a draft, the third a working paper. We would like to know what is this Cairo document. These minutes were supposed to be sent to the leaderships of both sides for their approval. We sent them to the Palestinian leadership in Tunis, and they okayed part of them, and expressed reservations about the other parts. We want to return to Taba to talk about all these issues.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, what's next then? Is the Palestinian side waiting for the Israeli response?

[Sha'th] I have just sent our response to Peres, which is, by and large, positive. We are ready to return to the talks to pick up where we left off in Cairo. We are also bound by the Declaration of Principles. I hope the Israeli response will, this time, be positive.

[Mu'addi] Egypt's Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said today the Taba talks may resume next Tuesday.

[Sha'th] That's fine by us.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, thank you so much.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

Says Joint Paper 'Israeli Fabrication'

TA0201151594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Report on telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, in Cairo, by Razi Barqay—recorded "a short while ago"—Sha'th's remarks recorded in English]

[Excerpt] [Barqay] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the head of the Palestinian delegation, is busy in his Cairo office sending faxes to 'Arafat and receiving faxes from Jerusalem. In the course of our interview with him a short while ago, he received a facsimile from Shim'on Peres. We will return to this later but first we asked Sha'th about the draft that was formulated in Cairo. Why has 'Arafat gone back on his agreement? Nabil Sha'th replied that the reports of a joint paper were an Israeli fabrication. There was no such document.

[Sha'th] In fact, I do not know which paper Prime Minister Rabin is talking about. There were minutes that Mr. Peres dictated to his assistant Yoni [not further specified] in the meeting on 28 December. These minutes...[pauses] the next day we got a different draft from the Israeli side which differs significantly from it. And then, I sent a revised draft working paper to the Israeli side that I have not received any response on, so one wonders which agreement it is that Prime Minister Rabin is talking about.

[Barqay translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] We only have a handwritten draft, Sha'th asserted, which has not even been signed. The word agreement does not even appear on the draft. We asked Sha'th what the disagreements were about.

[Sha'th] One, is about the size of the Jericho area. Number two is an issue related to the passages only in relation to the passage of residents of Gaza and Jericho; whereas we agree on all the rest of the modalities.

[Barqay translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] We asked Sha'th to comment on 'Arafat's claim that Israel was only offering the Palestinians something akin to an Indian reservation.

[Sha'th] Whereas the Israeli side is always very sensitive about any symbol of sovereignty we talk about, like a passport or a postage stamp, we are also very sensitive about what we feel sometimes is an attempt to continue Israeli control of Palestinians in the occupied territories. Mr. 'Arafat's use of the word Bantustan for example, was as a result of his feelings that withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho should have given the Gaza and Jericho residents at least more freedom from direct Israeli control. Including of the crossing points.

[Barqay translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] Does 'Arafat have the power to impose his control, we asked Sha'th? Most definitely, he replied. 'Arafat was and remains the boss. All the talk about a revolt are completely exaggerated. Then, while we were still talking, a facsimile arrived from Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Sha'th] Would you hold on just a second. We have just received a letter from Mr. Peres and there is not a clear approval of going to Taba. In other words, he is still ready to hold the Taba negotiations but there is no specific date and I do not know if we are sure about the conditions for going back. Well, this may be clarified in a telephone call which I am going to make but as of now I see only a tentative approval that needs further confirmation. [passage omitted]

PLO Envoy: Working Paper 'Mere Understanding'

NC3112202893 Cairo MENA in English 1622 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, Dec 31 (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli working paper which was reached by both sides was just a mere understanding and not an agreement, Palestinian Ambassador to Egypt Sa'id Kamal said today.

Thus, the paper called for presenting the text to both the Palestinian and Israeli leaderships, Ambassador Kamal told MENA.

Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat agreed that Taba committee's meetings would resume during next week, Ambassador Kamal further said.

Such a meeting was essential to formulate many issues regarding Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho and which were agreed on during the past two months, he added.

The Palestinians and Israelis could continue contacts to clear barriers which were still impeding the implementation of Gaza-Jericho peace accord, he said.

He reiterated the importance of the efforts exerted by President Husni Mubarak to surmount the difficulties impeding the execution of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

The coming summit of 'Arafat and Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin would take place by mid January at most in the light of the progress made by the negotiations, he said.

Contacts Under Way To Clear 'Misunderstanding'

NC0201095394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—The Palestinians and Israelis are making intensive contacts with each other, both directly and via intermediaries, notably Egypt, to eliminate the misunderstanding between their leaders which have delayed the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council, told MENA that the misunderstanding resulted from the fact that the contents of several documents that had been submitted were inaccurately conveyed to the leaders.

Subayh explained that the points raised by President Yasir 'Arafat in connection with the Gaza-Jericho agreement are part and parcel of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles signed in Washington 13 September.

Subayh stressed that the Palestinians have a definite wish to implement the Gaza-Jericho agreement and they believe that the Israelis have the same wish.

Sha'th Rejects Israeli Ultimatum, Escalation

NC0201193694 London MBC Television in Arabic 1810 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Interview with 'Arafat's political adviser Nabil Sha'th by MBC correspondent Mu'tazz al-Dimirdash in Cairo on 2 January—recorded]

[Text] [Sha'th] The trip to Tunis by brother Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and the criticism voiced in the territories now and then, constructive and otherwise, are the lawful right of the Palestinian people and all their leaders inside and outside the territories. This criticism indeed has nothing whatsoever to do with the recent crisis. In this crisis, all the Palestinian people stand by the negotiating delegation and the Palestinian leadership to establish the Palestinian rights.

[Al-Dimirdash] The crisis Dr. Sha'th is talking about is represented in the pressure the Israeli side is putting on the PLO to accept Cairo proposals. Are there new bases for resuming negotiations this time?

[Sha'th] Our constant and basic commitment is to the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September. There is no specific document called the Cairo document. We worked out a document in Norway that outlined the points of agreement and disagreement. There is no similar document developed in Cairo. There were minutes dictated by Minister Peres. The next day, we received a document totally different from those minutes. We sent a correction and later sent Palestinian ideas.

[Al-Dimirdash] What is the PLO's stand on Rabin's hardline statements today, in which he implied that negotiations might not be resumed if the Palestinians do not accept the draft agreement?

[Sha'th] We do not accept ultimatums. If the Israelis halt negotiations, we will go back to the two sponsors who signed the agreement that should have been implemented on a specific date. The Israelis have shown no commitment until now. We do not want to escalate the situation. But we reject the Israeli escalation and want real negotiations that lead to an acceptable agreement.

Rejects Israeli 'Blackmail' on Talks

NC0201150694 Paris AFP in English 1334 GMT 2 Jan 94

[By Mona Salem]

[Text] Cairo, Jan 2 (AFP)—The PLO said Sunday [2 January] it rejected Israeli "blackmail" over the resumption of autonomy talks, after Israel warned that the organisation would first have to accept a disputed Cairo document.

"We are not involved in negotiations in which ultimatums can be issued," senior PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th told AFP.

"No side can accept such blackmail."

He said the "text presented by Israel as an accord is only a draft working paper drawn up by the Israeli delegation and on which the Palestinian delegation never gave its agreement."

But the Palestine Liberation Organisation is "serious in its desire to reach a solution to the problems as quickly as possible, if the other party shows the same will," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warned earlier that his country would return to the autonomy talks only if the PLO accepted the document drafted by negotiators in Cairo.

"We are not in a hurry, it's the Palestinians' turn to sweat it out," Israeli state radio quoted Rabin as telling ministers at the weekly cabinet meeting.

The Palestinians have called for new negotiations in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Tabah on Monday following recriminations over whether any agreement was made during negotiations in Cairo last week.

Israel announced Wednesday that the Palestinians had agreed to a draft document which would give joint control of border crossings and double the size of the autonomous area of Jericho to about 60 square kilometres (25 sq. miles).

But the PLO denied any accord and the Israeli press has reported that chairman Yasir 'Arafat is insisting on no Israeli presence at points where Palestinians will cross into the autonomous enclaves from Jordan and Egypt.

Israel alleged Palestinian negotiators had gone back on their word.

Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, who helped draw up the Cairo document, said: "It is not definite if the talks are to resume.

"If they are based on the understandings reached in Cairo, they can go on, but for the moment there is no basis to pursue them."

But Sha'th insisted that "only the paragraph concerning the Jericho zone represents common ideas" and that the Israelis had failed to take the Palestinians' views into account in the rest of the document.

The paper was intended to review both points of view but the Israelis left out "at least 60 percent" of what was verbally agreed by the two sides, said the Palestinian negotiator.

Implementation of the September 13 PLO-Israeli autonomy accord has been delayed by failure to agree mainly on the withdrawal of the Israeli army, the size of Jericho and control of crossings.

Musa, Sha'th Make Statements After Meeting

NC0201212594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2055 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that today he held contacts with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, as well as with a number of European foreign ministers, to push forward the peace process and overcome the obstacles standing in the way of the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. Musa expressed the hope that an agreement will eventually be reached.

Musa said his meeting this evening with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, was part of the consultations that Egypt is holding.

Meanwhile, Dr. Nabil Sha'th said: We are working together to solve the problems and overcome the obstacles preventing an agreement so that we can return to the negotiating table in Taba. He added: The Israelis have raised an uncalled for and groundless furor about an agreement reached and on which the Palestinians have backed down. He said: As a matter of fact, no agreement had been reached. All that happened was that a working paper had been written and submitted to President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin so that the points of agreement and disagreement could be marked on this paper to facilitate the work of the negotiators in Taba.

Sha'th stressed that the Palestinians are prepared to return to the talks but the Israeli side is still resorting to an escalation. Mr. 'Amr Musa and the Egyptian side are trying to resolve this problem so that we can return to the negotiations and accomplish what we have agreed to accomplish.

Asked whether the Palestinians have received a reply from Israel, Sha'th said: We have received a lengthy reply containing the Israeli stand vis-a-vis our stand. This is a normal matter.

Musa To Arrive in Israel To Help Bridge Gaps

TA0301121294 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 3 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa is expected to arrive in Israel to discuss the points of contention between the Palestinian and Israeli sides that emerged during the recent Cairo talks. Cairo is trying to bridge the gap between the two sides and achieve agreement on implementing the declaration of principles. It is worth noting that Egypt is playing a key role in support of the peace process.

Jordan Insists on Securing Water Rights in Talks

JN0301135694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Jan 94 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—Any solution to the Jordanian-Israeli conflict in the Arab-Israeli bilateral talks will inevitably have to address Jordan's water shortage problem, Mundher Haddadin, water expert and member of the Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, said Sunday [2 January].

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Haddadin said article three of the agenda of the Jordanian-Israeli bilateral talks, which was concluded recently, states that both sides should get their legitimate share of water sources shared by them.

The issue will be discussed in official talks between the two sides as soon as the coming round of the Arab-Israeli bilateral talks starts, he said.

Dr. Haddadin said Jordan would focus in the negotiations on a sub-agenda which would include all the points related to the water of the al-Yarmuk and the Jordan Rivers.

Jordan, he said, has rights to international rivers it is sharing with other countries in accordance with international charters. But, he added, the Jordan River's tributaries in Jordanian territory, south of the al-Yarmuk River, are internal valleys whose water had been used since the 1950s to irrigate lands in the eastern Jordan valley. and thus, are considered Jordanian waters.

Reviewing Jordan's plans to exploit the Jordan River, Dr. Haddadin said Jordan has prepared a plan to use the river and its tributaries in 1939 and the plan aimed mainly at irrigating lands in the eastern Jordan Valley. The plan was updated in 1950 for the same purpose.

On the other side of the river, before the establishment of Israel, the Jewish agency had drawn counterplans for the use of the Jordan River. Following the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948, Israel had drawn two more plans, he added.

The Israeli plans had always clashed with the Jordanian ones, and even the Israeli ambitions in Arab water had exceeded the borders of Palestine and included plans to use the al-Litani River in Lebanon, he said.

Dr. Haddadin noted that Israel draws water from the Jordan River to the Palestinian coast for agricultural projects and even to the Negev Desert to reform lands while the Jordanian water plans have only concentrated on the use of the river's water in the Jordan Valley basin itself.

Israel's attempts to control Arab waters continued after 1967, when Israeli occupied the West Bank and the Golan Heights, and the Israelis put under their control most of the Jordan River's sources and tributaries north of Tiberias Lake, he said.

He added that Israel also managed to control the sources of the al-Yarmuk River after the 1967 war, thus violating all international standards and charters on the use of joint water sources.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Delivers Fatah Anniversary Address

LD3112204293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1723 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Address by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and in the diaspora on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of the founding of the Fatah Movement—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We have given thee a manifest victory, that God may forgive thee thy former and thy latter sins, and complete His blessings upon thee, and guide thee on a straight path, and that God might help thee with a mighty victory. It is He who sent down tranquility into the hearts of the believers, that they may add faith to their faith, for to God belongs the forces of the heavens and the earth, and God is full of knowledge and wisdom. [Koranic verse] God tells the truth. O sons of our great Palestinian people, O you activists, steadfast and mujahidin people for Palestine, O you the people of the valiant Intifadah, O you the heroes of the confrontation and resistance in exile and in the diaspora, O you the brave heroes who are patient and resilient in jails and detention centers, O you valiant eagles and courageous hunted men in every camp, village. and city; in every town, valley, and mountain in the land of beloved Palestine. Oh you the sons of our glorious Arab nation, in this glorious day, the anniversary of the outbreak of Fatah, the anniversary of the outbreak of the Palestinian revolution, in this day which marks the 29th anniversary of that glorious day, those rare historic moments when young people who have believed in their God and people have decided to open up the road to the beginning of a new stage for our people in the track of its struggle since the beginning of this century, on this day, on this glorious day, we mark this Palestinian national revolutionary anniversary in a new climate, in a new situation, and in the face of new prospects.

Today, after decades of bitter struggle, today, after 29 years of a burning revolution, today after six years of the glowing Intifadah, today after long and bitter years of steadfastness, confrontation, and resistance in which we have given the price for Palestine in the form of the pains of our injured people, the freedom of our prisoners and the sorrow of our women, sisters, and daughthers, and the patience of our elderly people and men, and with the blood of our heroes, the cohorts of loyal martyrs, the brave sons of our people, today we miss them badly, those horsemen who have left their mounts early, the brave martyrs who have fallen on the road to freedom, liberation, and independence.

[Passage omitted] Our celebration today, oh my brothers, is different and set apart from any day in the past. On this day we stand with our relatives in the beloved homeland separated by only a few days from our appointment with history, from the appointed date for the beginning of the Israeli withdrawal from part of our land, from the appointed date for beginning of the return of thousands of our cadres and leaders to the homeland, from the appointed date for the establishment of the first Palestinian national authority for our people on the territory of their homeland in accordance with the resolution of our Palestinian National Council in 1974, from the date appointed for the new resurrection of the homeland of Palestine and the establishment of our Palestinian people on the political and geographical map of the region now that the attempt to wipe our mighty people from this map has ended forever. The people of Palestine are mighty, the people of Palestine are mighty. [passage omitted]

We have upheld the pledge and the oath. [passage omitted]

O sons of our great people, O sons of our glorious nation, by signing the Declaration of Principles agreement between the PLO and the Israeli Government, the cause of our people has entered a new historical and decisive phase.

This agreement included the beginning of the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza strip and the Jericho region in connection with the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the rest of the occupied territories and the establishment of a Palestinian authority led by the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; and the beginning of a transitional period followed in no more than three years by the negotiations of the final stage. The most important issues to be debated will be Holy Jerusalem, the old refugees, the settlements, the final borders, and the implementation of UN resolutions 242 and 338.

This agreement and the sweeping international support it produced, and the new realities it brought about, meant one single and basic fact, namely that the Palestinian people have firmly established their feet on the soil of their homeland by the effect of decades of the blessed Jihad and by the results of the bitter confrontations and the legendary steadfastness in the face of the expeditions of extermination and evil and by the effect of the legend of building and consolidating the national identity—yes, by the effect of the legend of building, consolidating, and safeguarding the national identity in the diaspora and under the bayonets of occupation and in the heart of the detention camps and prisons, by the effect of the masses of our brave people, the architect of the epics of the unique struggle in the refugee camps in Lebanon and the architect of the epics of the heroic Fida'is operations and the tough resistance at al-Karamah [battle in Jordan where Palestinian resisted an Usraeli attack] and in the homeland's soil and the architect of the legendary epic in standing fast in the siege of Beirut and the architect of the independent Palestinian decisionmaking, the architect of the blessed and brave intifadah; Yes, the architect of the blessed and brave Intifadah in our occupied homeland, which dealt a finishing and final blow to the expansionist Zionist scheme.

By the effect of all this, events have built up day after day. The walls, one after another, and obstacles, one after another, have collapsed until Israeli recognition came to announce a new era of our people's history and of our genuine and loyal Jihad. [passage omitted]

Sons of our struggling people; brave and valiant women, men, children and youth in all positions inside and outside the homeland; our valiant wounded and our hero detainees; our glorious Arab nation: We are entering the new era full of hope without being deluded by chimeras. Yes, without being deluded by chimeras. We do so armed with faith and confidence. [passage omitted] The path is still long, but we have much food; the tasks are still many and difficult, but our positions are stronger and more advanced and more impregnable. [passage omitted] We say this so that we can realize our reality well and so that we can firm our footholds. The historic achievement that was realized does not mean in any way that our national tasks have been completed, as we still have before us the task of completing the comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories, at the forefront of which is Holy Jerusalem, the capital city of our independent state in implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, so that our people can exercise their right to self-determination and establishing their independent state. Before us there still remains the main holy task of guaranteeing the rights of the Palestinian refugees in accordance with the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy, in addition to the issue of the settlements and the final frontiers. Out of our realization of all that, our central council made its decision that the PLO should be the point of reference as far as the national authority is concerned—the national authority that will be established in the territories from which Israel will withdraw so that we can preserve the entity and role of the PLO in all that means of the unity of the people and the cause.

The political battle of negotiations that we have been waging, O sons of our great people, since 13 September to secure the precise and faithful implementation of the Declaration of Principles agreement is only a small sample of the obstacles that we are to face in the future. We are aware however of the fact that a historical step such as the one that has been achieved will have so many obstacles in its path due to the fact that it has taken place following decades of tenacious confrontation, war, aggression, and occupations.

We stress that we look at the Declaration of Principles as a first step on the path toward achieving a comprehensive peace that would not acquire its full meaning before the implementation of all the UN resolutions, the Israeli withdrawal, and the recovery of Arab rights on all fronts. Approaching is our great concern for Arab coordination, which we consider as a necessary condition for the consolidation of the stand of the Arab negotiator [as heard] especially after the Declaration of Principles brought about a change that bridged the gap between the Palestinian track and the rest of the Arab tracks in terms of time as dictated by the requirements of the peace process in Madrid. [passage omitted]

We would have wished greater size and quicker pace for the programs of support. [passage omitted]

We, while crossing the threshold of the new era in our history, fully realize how this moment is so special and unique; we realize its difficulties. Allow me to say to you that the anxiety we all are feeling, where hopes mix with fears, progress with hesitation, and emotions with wisdom and consideration, is natural. Yes, my brothers, this is a natural matter. In fact, it is evidence that everything is alright and healthy as far as our entity and society are concerned. [passage omitted] It is the moment of the beginning of the process of the realization of our national aims; it is the moment of the beginning of the revival of a new Palestine.

It is the moment of the meeting of our masses inside with their revolution and people in the diaspora. It is the moment of the beginning of the construction of the Palestinian national entity on the land of Palestine. We have to realize full well the requirements of this moment so that our steps will be precise and correct and so that we can advance toward the completion of our aims. [passage omitted] We want the Palestine that is being revived anew to be a homeland that realizes for the people of Palestine their dreams, hopes, and aspirations—a homeland that will realize the aims for which we have struggled; a homeland that will compensate our masses for continuous decades of injustice and oppression, which were the result of the historic crime and injustice carried out against us. We want it to be a free homeland for a free people and for strugglers; a modern and advanced entity; democratic, and a model that makes available the opportunity for the continuation of the civilized role and religious and cultural heritage that Palestine had throughout history; an oasis in which our people will enjoy freedom, democracy, political pluralism, security and safety, the independence of the judiciary, the preservation of public freedoms, stability, prosperity, human rights and equality between men and women.

A homeland for the Palestinians wherever they may be, getting ready for the time when our objectives are achieved with the [military] evacuation of our holy Jerusalem and the whole of this homeland, the land of holiness and prophets and the place of the ascension of our prophet Muhammad and the birthplace of Jesus, is completed [sentence as heard].

My brothers, beloved, comrades of the path and the march, and brothers of struggle and Jihad, the enormity of the sacrifices we are facing is relative to the size of our dreams and hopes, our determination and persistence, the strength of our belief and will. We are starting from the reality of destruction that years of occupation have inflicted on the infrastructure of our economy and society. [passage omitted]

On this occasion and on this historic day I address an appeal to all the sons of our Palestinian people—in all its sectors and groupings everywhere; in all its detachments, forces, parties, trends, personalities, and activities—saying to them all that the hour of the major jihad has struck—the hour of building the national entity to consolidate our capability to complete the wresting of all our national rights—this hour is for unity and not for disunity, and this hour is for harmony that concentrates on the common denominators and not an hour for division that looks for contradictions and differences. Come; come, let us together and hand in hand and side by side wage our holy battle by building the national Palestinian entity. Come, let us agree on what we agree upon. Let some of us pardon others on what we differ upon. Come, let us agree and disagree under the umbrella of what unites us—under the umbrella of the sublime national interest of our people and homeland and nation. [passage omitted]

O sons of our great people, this new year is that of the renaissance. Here is Palestine being reborn again as a national entity on its way to becoming an independent state. [passage omitted]

In this year, it is our duty to consolidate our rank and mobilize our energies to be at the level of the challenges facing us. This is the year of great tasks, and the year of achievements that we are undertaking from new stands, with new spirit. It is the year of the free people who are making a free homeland and a new torch of light, hope, and faith in the region. [passage omitted]

It is a revolution until victory, until victory, until victory. Your brother, Abu 'Ammar.

Speaks at Martyrs' Cemetery

LD0101195494 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of the founding of the Fatah Movement, "this morning" at the martyrs cemetery in Boukornine, Tunisia—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] On this day, the first of January, the day of the Palestinian revolution, the day of Fatah, the day of the Palestinian people, the day of all free and noble people in the Arab nation, on this day the first bullet was fired by the blessed vanguard of the Arab nation to declare to the whole world that the Palestinian people are a people of history and honor. They are a mighty people, they are a mighty people, yes, they are a mighty people.

When these bullets were fired to announce a rebirth of this people, they were telling the Zionist and imperialist plot that it could not remove this people from the annals of history as international Zionism and imperialism had tried to do, as the Zionists and imperialists had tried to do. They had tried to erase this people from the annals of history. Let us remember what the Zionists and imperialists said: A land without people [Palestine] for a people without a homeland [the Jews].

[Passage omitted] O my brothers, my beloved, we are now in the midst of a political battle of negotiations. It is ruthless, ruthless. However, at the same time it crowns the blessed intifadah, which is still burning over our Palestinian land.

I am telling you that together we will confront all these attempts and all these plots. Let Rabin and Peres be aware that no one among the Palestinian people will kneel down or submit. They may be able to continue occupying this land but no one can humiliate or dishonor the Palestinian people; they are a great people, a great people.

Therefore, brothers, the pledge remains the same. Honorable martyrs, the pledge remains the same and the oath remains the same. We will continue on this path until the Palestinian flag is hoisted; until the Palestinian flag is hoisted by our new generals, the children of the stones, over the walls of Jerusalem, the mosques of Jerusalem, and the churches of Jerusalem. They see it as distant but we see it as close. We are sincere. [passage omitted]

O brothers, beloved, beloved, O beloved martyrs, O martyrs who are more honorable than us, the pledge, yet again, the pledge, the pledge remains the same and the oath Iremains the same. Together and side by side until we reach Palestine [repeats], until we reach Jerusalem [repeats four time]. Together until victory, victory, victory.

Addresses People of Jericho

LD0201192294 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee, has stressed that this year will be the year of revival: Here is Palestine being revived as a liberated homeland for free men—the honorable, strugglers, and revolutionaries; a homeland for democracy; a modern homeland and a homeland for human and individual liberty.

Speaking on the telephone to the people of Jericho celebrating the 29th anniversary of the founding of the Fatah Movement and the intifadah entering its seventh year, brother Abu-'Ammar said that no one could erase the Palestinian people from the annals of history or the region's geographical and political map.

He added: We have decided to make peace with our enemy, but they are trying to prevaricate and say that deadlines are not sacred. I am saying: No, deadlines are sacred, and he who signs something must respect it. I am telling them that prevarications cannot affect the determination of the Palestinian people, because this people's determination comes from God; God wills what His soldiers want.

Yes, they will not be able to undermine our determination and will not be able to outmaneuver us. We have signed an agreement and they must respect it. The conference sponsors, Russia and America, signed with us under the auspices of the President of the United States and under the patronage, before the eyes, and with the blessing of the whole world. I am saying this so that it will be clear to those who are near by and those who are far away.

Brother Abu-'Ammar said: By signing the Declaration of Principles between the PLO and Israel, we brought our people to a new and decisive historical era. This agreement, inclusive of its contents from the start of the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, absolutely did not mean redeployment. Withdrawal means withdrawal. But there is redeployment in other areas, in addition to the establishment of national authority under the leadership of the PLO in implementation of our Palestinian National Council's decision in 1974, which stipulated the establishment of national authority on any part of the Palestinian soil being liberated or from which the Israelis withdrew.

Brother Abu-'Ammar affirmed that Holy Jerusalem was in our hearts and eyes and we would not compromise on it.

On the issue of the refugees and the settlements, Brother Abu-'Ammar pointed out that the issue of the emigres was entrusted to a committee from our Jordanian and Egyptian brothers, Israel, and the PLO to arrange for their return. The fate of the refugees would be determined in a period not exceeding three years, that the same applies to the settlements and their removal, and the final borders of the state of Palestine.

Brother Abu-'Ammar affirmed that we will not live in homelands or ghettos, and nobody can ever humiliate the Palestinian people. If Rabin thinks that he can humiliate the Palestinian people, he is mistaken. He can continue occupying the land, but he is incapable of humiliating a Palestinian child, woman, man, or youth.

'Arafat said that with this agreement we have firmly established the Palestinian people on the geographical and political map of the Middle East. He said: Do not forget that the Zionists said at the first Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland in 1897: A Land Without a People for a People Without a Land. No, this land has the Palestinian people in it, and we are planted in the Palestinian land like Palestinian oak trees; our ancestors and their bones are in it, we are in it, and our children will be in it.

At the end of his address Abu-'Ammar urged the audience and all Palestinians to unite. He said: Unity, unity, unity for all the sons of Palestine, for all the generals of Palestine, and all the organizations of Palestine. Together we will make the homeland and together we will build this homeland; a homeland for all freemen and the honorable regardless of their affiliations, parties, or identities. We have a rendezvous with dawn; we have a rendezvous with victory.

'Arafat 'Optimistic' on Differences With Israel

JN0101194794 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has said that he remains optimistic the differences with Israel concerning the implementation of the Declaration of Principles can be worked out. His remark came in an interview with the Britith Sky Television network screened last night. The disagreements between the PLO and Israel should not stand in the way of implementing the Gaza-Jericho accord, 'Arafat stated. It is an international document the signing of which was witnessed by the cosponsors of the Middle East peace process, President Bill Clinton, and the whole world, he noted.

'Arafat Discusses Agreement, Israeli Statements

JN0101183094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1717 GMT 1 Jan 94

["Exclusive" telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Sufiya 'Amarah; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Amarah] Mr. Chairman: What would you say to the Palestinian people on the new year?

['Arafat] I would like to tell all Palestinian children, women, and men that Palestine is being resurrected anew as a beautiful homeland for each of our children, a free homeland for each of the Palestinian men. None of these men has abandoned sacrifice. Palestine now stands as a prosperous and fair hope for each of the Palestinian women who are protecting our existence, safeguarding our everlasting fire, maintaining the glowing spirit, and carrying the secret of eternal steadfastness. Palestine will be a homeland in which the children of Palestine, who are our new generals, will hoist the Palestinian flag on the land of Palestine, and on the walls, churches, and minarets of Jerusalem. It will be a homeland for free men who will create a free homeland and a new torch of light, hope, and faith.

['Amarah] Mr. Chairman: In a message to a U.S. Jewish leader, you said Israel wants to turn the Gaza Strip and Jericho area into an Indian reservation. Does this mean that the agreement, according to the Israeli viewpoint, cannot be accepted by the Palestinian people? In this case, what will be the alternative, or the path the Palestinian leadership will take, in order to meet the Palestinian people's demands?

['Arafat] It should be understood that we signed a peace [agreement] between the PLO and the State of Israel. Thus, Israel should honor its signature. I only demand an honest and precise implementation of what we signed.

['Amarah] What if implementation does not happen?

['Arafat] If you please, withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho means withdrawal, not redeployment. This should be understood by everyone everywhere. We will not live in a ghetto or in a bantustan. They should understand this matter. Therefore, we will never accept these conditions, which Rabin and others try to impose on the Palestinian people. I want to tell Rabin that he should honor what he signed, and that implementation should be accurate and literal.

['Amarah] What if this does not happen?

['Arafat] Let the world answer this question. This agreement was also signed by the Russian and U.S. cosponsors of the conference, under the supervision of President Clinton. The entire world witnessed the signing of this agreement. I want to tell Rabin: You can continue your occupation of our land for another period of time. However, Rabin should understand that he cannot at all impose on us injustice or humiliation. None of the children of Palestine will accept the humiliation they are trying to impose on us. They have been occupying our country for 45 years. They could continue to occupy it for 47, 48, or 50 years, but they will never be able to humiliate the Palestinian people. There is a powerful people in Palestine. This should be understood. I believe our children, whom I call the new generals, can confront this Israeli arrogance.

['Amarah] Mr. Chairman: President Mubarak is seeking to bridge the gaps separating the PLO and Israeli positions. How successful has he been?

['Arafat] Let me here thank my brother His Excellency the struggler President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for the considerable efforts he has been and is exerting in pursuit of a just and comprehensive peace in the region and to promote a faithful and accurate implementation of the accord. At the last round, convened by the Liaison Committee under Peres and my brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], my brother Egyptians did a fine job, with their foreign minister taking time off for this thing, and, instructed by President Mubarak, he did not spare himslef. I take this opportunity to thank them for their time and effort.

['Amarah] The delay in implementing the accord has apparently led to increased Palestinian opposition, even within the Fatah ranks. How do you feel about that?

['Arafat] Who said we mind opposition? I do not think a single Palestinian would allow me to agree to humiliating terms, against the wishes of the Palestinian people to set up a national authority on the first Palestinian territory, where a Palestinian flag will fly over the first Palestinian land to be liberated from occupation. I have no doubt that all Palestinian men, women, and children stand by me to defend the Palestinian people, dignity, and sanctities, most of all Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine. Do you think I rule over sheep?

['Amarah] No.

['Arafat] I am responsible for free and mujahid strugglers, each of whom is entitled to his or her own opinion. Let me quote 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab [the second khalif after Prophet Muhammad]: Blessed be the person who has corrected 'Umar.

['Amarah] Rabin said that 13 December, on which Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho was to have started, is not a sacrosanct date. He now says the 13 April deadline for completing the Israeli withdrawal is not sacred, either. What do you think?

['Arafat] This says something about the Israelis. Are they men of their word? Do they honor the agreements to which they put their signatures? Let them be judged by the world.

['Amarah] Mr. Chairman, do you believe that the Clinton-al-Asad summit in Geneva will help the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement? Do you think this submit will activate the peace process in the Middle East, especially on the Syrian-Israeli track?

['Arafat] No doubt, this summit was arranged in such a way as to be a basic pillar for proceeding on the Syrian-Israeli track. Undoubtedly, this summit will facilitate movement on other tracks. I wish this summit meeting success, so we can actually proceed together in order to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region—peace that preserves the Arab nation's dignity, existence, and rights.

['Amarah] Israel and the Vatican yesterday signed an agreement which was described as historic. This agreement has ignored the Jerusalem issue. How do you evaluate this Israeli-Vatican agreement?

['Arafat] It does not (?mean) an agreement on Jerusalem simply because the Vatican is aware that Jerusalem is not an Israeli responsibility. Jerusalem is a Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and Christian responsibility.

['Amarah] How do you view Israel's announcement that it is not in a hurry to implement the agreement?

['Arafat] Wind cannot shake a mountain. We are not shaken by a statement here and a statement there. Our steps are firm.

['Amarah] Mr. Chairman, can you address a message from Radio Monte Carlo to all the listeners and the steadfast people in the West Bank?

['Arafat] I would like to tell all the Palestinian children and women from the bottom of my heart and conscience that this new year is the year of resurrection. Palestine is resurrected, a national entity on the road to an independent state. It is the year of the harvest. After years of struggle and sacrifices, we are having our aims materialize on our national soil. In this month and in this year, the month of the nocturnal journey of the prophet to heaven, the month of the Palestinian revolution, the emergence of Fatah, the revolution of all the noble and free men in the Arab nation, this month and this year will witness the beginning of the new historical era for our people. This year will be the year of freedom for all our heroic detainees, the knights whose heroism built our historic achievement. To all our faithful martyrs, I say: Peace be on your chaste souls, our brothers, comrades, beloved ones, and leaders—Abu Jihad, Abu-Iyad, Abu-'Ali Iyad, Abu-al-Walid, Abu-al-Hawl, Majid Abu-Sharar, Abu-Yusuf, Kamal 'Adwan, Abu-Sabri, 'Abd-al-Fattah (Nur), Kamal Nasir, Ghassan Kanafani, Nazzal, and the many other leaders, cadres, and martyrs fighters who have continued the fight of al-Qassam, 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Husayni, and Hakam Salamah and other heroes who fell in defense of Palestine and Jerusalem. I tell them: The clock has chimed: Victory for us and freedom for Palestine. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, and we wished to be gracious to those who were being depressed in the land, to make them leaders in faith, and make them heirs and to establish a firm place for them in the land. And those who strive in our cause, we will certainly guide them to our paths; for verily God is with those who do right. [Koranic verses]

'Arafat Queried on Disagreements With Israel

NC0201084294 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis, by 'Abdallah Zalatah, in Cairo, carried on the "Dialogue from Afar" program, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zalatah] Welcome, Mr. President.

['Arafat] Thank you.

[Zalatah] Mr. President, what is the status of the negotiations following the recent discussions in Oslo, Paris, and Cairo?

['Arafat] The situation, I am sorry to say, is nearly frozen because of the Israeli attitude, which seeks to impose conditions on the Palestinians outside the context of the signed agreement. When we speak of withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, the term withdrawal must be respected. It must not be a redeployment [preceding word in English] but a withdrawal. And a second point: We do not want to live in a ghetto or a bantustan with the Israelis closing and controlling the existing roads. When they speak of withdrawal, it must mean exactly that. In security matters, they must understand that this is not a one-way street. Security applies both ways, our own security and their security. This must be understood. If they are trying to force an unsound interpretation of the agreement, they must know that such talk will not find willing ears among the Palestinians, Arabs, other free and honorable people in the world, or the sponsors of the peace conference who signed the agreement with us.

[Zalatah] Mr. President, what is Your Excellency's impression of Egypt's role in trying to surmount the existing obstacles?

['Arafat] First of all, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to His Excellency the struggler President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for all the worthy efforts he has been making to ensure that this agreement works. He worked to bring the agreement into existence and is now helping to see it implemented. We can never forget the role of his excellency the president. He has also instructed his foreign minister to devote his attention almost entirely to the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee meetings.

For some time he has been preoccupied with this issue, devoting himself to it. We thank him very much for this.

[Zalatah] President 'Arafat, what is the joint working paper to which Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he would accept no amendments?

['Arafat] I am sorry to say that Rabin appears not to have been accurately briefed by his delegation on what happened. The understanding was that these points were points for discussion, not an agreement. The assumption is that these points will be submitted to the Israeli and Palestinian leaders. However, I was surprised—I regret to say—when they called them points of agreement. They absolutely must not circumvent the facts and the agreements. The Egyptian brothers, who have been following these developments, can testify that we agreed to state our views on these points, with the understanding that they would serve as an agenda for the discussions. The ideas were submitted by them, not by the Palestinians.

[Zalatah] Mr. President, if we summarize the Palestinian stance in several specific points, what would they be?

['Arafat] I want to say one thing. The agreement mentions withdrawal. Withdrawal means exactly that, not redeployment. Regrettably, they are unable to understand what withdrawal means, or they understand it but are trying to sidestep it. This is impermissible. When we speak of withdrawal, it must mean exactly that. It is impermissible for them to turn the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho into a redeployment. Another point is this: We are going back to liberated territory in Gaza and Jericho. What must be implemented in these areas is the final status, not the transitional phase. Therefore, just like any reasonable person, I cannot acquiesce to their attempt to make us live in a ghetto or a bantustan and to close the exit points around us. Is this reasonable? No Palestinian will accept such a situation. According to the Israeli administrative division, the area of Jericho District is 712 sq km. How can they offer us 27 sq km and then kindly condescend to offer us 55 sq km? Regrettably, they view this as a great favor to us and act as if they are conceding to us our own land.

More than that, things reached the point of telling us that we are only entitled to hold [Christian] religious rites in al-Maghtis Christian area [where Jesus Christ was baptized]. Who could accept this? As for Muslims, their religious rites are to be held in Maqam al-Nabi Musa area. Who says this? Do they think they are doing us a favor? Is such a mentality acceptable? And they also do not want us to supervise the area between Jericho the three bridges [on the Jordan River]. What does that mean? Will we be entering a ghetto? This is really strange. We added Jericho to Gaza; Gaza because it borders on Egypt and is linked to our brothers in Egypt; and Jericho because it is connected to Jordan and the brothers in Jordan. But they [the Israelis] want to impose on us their own concept; and God knows from where they got this concept. As for the international presence, it is an "international presence" [last two words in English]. This means a temporary international presence during the interim period. Now they say that they cannot accept an international presence. This is really strange, because it is specified in the agreement.

[Zalatah] But the Palestinian side welcomes an international presence?

['Arafat] Absolutely. I asked the brother Egyptians, brother Jordanians, brothers and friends in Europe, the Americans, the Russian cosponsors to come and be with me. I tell you my brother: I am ready to accept the force that is present in Sinai. But their logic is very strange. They interpret the agreement in a way that serves their interests, not a way that suits the interests of both parties.

[Zalatah] President 'Arafat: Could we say that a meeting between you and Rabin in the coming few days has become difficult to pull off?

['Arafat] Of course it has become difficult, until he is convinced that the implementation of the agreement must be accurate, honest, and literal.

[Zalatah] What about a resumption of talks between you and the Israelis?

['Arafat] At any rate, we are thinking about it now. There is a proposal to resume the talks of one of the committees in Taba. The Palestinian leadership will study this proposal, God willing, and respond to it.

[Zalatah] As we end our dialogue, would you like to send a message to the brothers in the occupied territories?

['Arafat] I would like to tell our great people, the steadfast people struggling for the sake of Palestine, the valiant people of the intifadah, the heroes of confrontation in the territories and the diaspora, the patient and steadfast heroes in the detention camps and prisons, the valiant hawks and noble people being pursued in every camp, village, city, township, valley, and mountain on the beloved land of Palestine, and to the entire Arab homeland: I tell them on this day, the anniversary of the outbreak of Palestinian revolution and the anniversary of Fatah; on this day and in this month, the month marking the Prophet's journey to heaven; I tell them that we have an appointment with dawn. We have an appointment with victory. We have an appointment to write on the history books for our Arab world that nobody can obliterate the Palestinian people from the map of the Arab world and the Middle East. The Palestinian people have become a tough and fundamental factor in the political and geographical equation. In 1897, the Jews talked about Palestine as a land without a people for a people without a homeland. No. The Palestinian people are deep-rooted in their land. To all this, I say to all our noble brothers and comrade martyrs that the pledge remains the same and the oath remains the same. We have an appointment with dawn, we have an appointment with victory, we have an appointment with the state of Palestine.

"So lose not heart, nor fall into despair: for ye must gain mastery if ye are true in faith." "On that day shall the believers rejoice with the help of God. He helps whom He will, and He is exalted in might, most merciful. It is the promise of God. Never does God depart from His promise: but most men understand not." [Koranic verses]

God willing, a child from my country, a general from the generals of [word indistinct] will raise the Palestinian flag over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem. "And to enter your Temple as they had entered it before." [Koranic verse]

[Zalatah] President 'Arafat: We thank you very much and we welcome you always on the Voice of the Arabs.

['Arafat] We will soon pray together in Jerusalem brother 'Abdallah, God willing.

[Zalatah] God willing. Thank you.

'Arafat: Jordan Supports Palestinian Stand

NC3112074693 Paris AFP in English 0218 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Tunis, Dec 31 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said late Thursday [30 December] that Jordan's King Husayn had affirmed his support for the Palestinian position in talks with Israel on the autonomy accord.

'Arafat arrived back in Tunis after stopping off in Amman to see Husayn following a visit to Cairo during which he met with Egyptian leaders for talks on implementing the Israeli-PLO accord signed in Washington in September.

'Arafat told the Palestinian agency WAFA that King Husayn's support came at "one of the most important moments in the Palestinian cause".

The PLO has sent Israel its own modified version of a working paper aimed at ending the deadlock on the launch of the accord, a Palestinian source said earlier Thursday in Cairo.

The source, declining to be named, said the paper was the Palestinian version of a draft understanding, details of which were released earlier the same day in Israel.

During the two-hour meeting at Amman airport, 'Arafat and King Husayn "consolidated Palestinian-Jordanian coordination in all matters", the PLO leader said.

A meeting is now to be held next week to determine the kind of coordination between the two countries.

'Arafat said his meeting with the Jordanian king would give a "new impulse" to bilateral relations, highlighting that the Palestine Liberation Organisation was anxious "to widen and improve the level of these relations".

According to a Palestinian source the two sides agreed to reactivate a joint commission to meet in Amman next week.

An Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho, under the September 13 autonomy accord, was to have started on December 13 but the deadline passed because of three main stumbling blocks.

The PLO and Israel are at loggerheads over the size of Jericho, the control of international crossing points and security for Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip.

According to Israel's draft, the size of an autonomous Jericho will be doubled from the original offer and the border crossings into Jordan and Egypt will be jointly manned but Israel would have the final say.

But 'Arafat said Thursday in Amman that his organisation had rejected the Israeli draft.

PLO Team To Visit Amman, Sign Economic Accords

JN0301084594 Amman AL-WATAN in Arabic 2 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-WATAN has learned from informed Palestinian sources that a high-level Palestinian delegation will arrive in Amman this week, and that the delegation will sign Jordanian-PLO economic agreements that have been finalized by special bilateral committees.

This official visit will come on the heels of recent talks held between His Majesty King Husayn and the Palestinian president, during which the Palestinian side affirmed its concern to maintain the special Palestinian-Jordanian relationship regardless of the impediments entailed.

In a separate development, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office yesterday Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who arrived in Amman the day before yesterday.

AL-WATAN has learned that there is currently a consensus within the Palestinian side, particularly the PLO leadership, that the Israeli leaders will maintain their procrastination and prevarication regarding the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord, and that it is in the interest of the Palestinians to coordinate with various Palestinian factions and forces to ensure harmony within the Palestinian camp, and also to enhance the relationship with Jordan and other Arab sides.

Envoy: Nothing To Prevent 'Arafat-al-Asad Meeting

NC0101112994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA)—Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, has praised Egypt's diligent efforts to promote the peace process in the region and bring closer the Palestinian and Israeli views on the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

In an exclusive statement to MENA today, Kamal said that President Husni Mubarak had exerted special efforts to maintain consultations and coordination among all the Arab parties concerned with peace in the Middle East. He stressed that the PLO and President Yasir 'Arafat are interested in cooperating and consulting with Syria. He pointed out that despite the Palestinian side's preoccupation with the negotiations with Israel during the past two months, contacts between Damascus and the PLO continued through diplomatic channels.

Kamal expressed his belief that nothing prevents a meeting between 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad before the Geneva summit between al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton on 17 January.

Algeria

Prime Minister Malek Favors Strong State

LD3012153593 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Algerian Prime Minister Redha Malek has granted an interview to our colleagues of the French third television channel. He says he is in favor of a strong state, and one which at the same time is closer to the concerns of Algerians. Redha Malek :

[Begin recording] [Malek] Our intention and, I would even say, our wish and our determination, is to build a solid state on firm foundations, a state which is also credible, one which is in touch with the people and not cut off from the people, one which is with the people, which forms one body with the Algerian people.

[Correspondent Christian Mallard] So, it is a matter of putting behind you certain errors which may have been made in the past—I am thinking in particular of the time of President Chedli Bendjedid?

[Malek] Yes, absolutely. We are in favor of making a break with it. If we have ended up in the current situation it is because the state did not play its role, because the consensus which had existed was eroded away, because there were deviations of all kinds, which meant that the state lost the trust of the people. The past is over, we are making a break with it, and we are moving on toward the future, and we are going toward the 21st century with our heads high. [end recording]

On Situation in Algeria

LD3112212793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] As we said in the headlines of this bulletin, the situation in Algeria was discussed by Prime Minister Redha Malek in an interview with the French media. He talked about politics, the economy, and prospects for political dialogue. Here is a summary of the main topics from Malek Elilmi.

[Malek] At a request from the National Dialogue Commission, Mr. Redha Malek said the Higher State Council [HCE] is continuing its task for another month to give greater opportunities for the dialogue to continue and for a national conference to be held. Mr. Redha Malek said the HCE has completed its task and had prevented Algeria from becoming a new Afghanistan. He said history will bear witness that in this difficult situation we have saved the state and democracy.

Redha Malek said the aim of the national conference is to arrive at the minimum level of consensus among Algerians who understand the democratic game and those who favor the rule of law and political pluralism. He said the dialogue is open to all reasonable Algerians who oppose terrorism and realize it is an impasse. We favor breaking with the mistakes of the past, Redha Malek said. We have gotten into this situation because the state did not play its role and the consensus which existed was broken up and eroded. Deviations occurred, Redha Malek said, which caused the people to lose confidence in the state.

The political authorities will now endeavor with full determination to build a firm state which has credibility among the people, Redha Malek added.

On Algeria's debts and economic revival, Redha Malek said Algeria will meet all the deadlines and will pay all its current debts of $25-26 billion. Debt servicing has become a heavy burden this year, reaching 9.3 billion. Since December, we have opened up a dialogue with the IMF. A meeting with our experts resulted in notable progress, and in January we will try to reach an agreement to ease debt servicing.

This stage is difficult, Redha Malek said, but it is temporary. We have great human and material resources, and we will endeavor to convince the international community to participate in reviving the Algerian economy.

'Fundamentalist' Killed; Police Attacked

NC3012124893 Paris AFP in English 1051 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Algiers, Dec 30 (AFP)—An Islamic fundamentalist was killed by security forces when three armed men raided a post office in Fouka 25 kilometres (15 miles) from the Algerian capital, the newspaper LIBERTE reported on Thursday.

The other two men got away in a waiting car.

At Iferhounene, half a dozen armed men attacked the police station and administrative offices but there were no casualties, EL MOUDJAHID reported.

At Azazga, in the same region of the Great Kabyle massif, an armed gang on Wednesday got away with 600,000 dinars (26,000 dollars) from a branch of the Local Development Bank.

Security Services Announce Fatalities, Arsons

LD0201164594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Security forces today announced that seven nationals were killed between Thursday and Friday in Blida, Biskra, Relizane, and Chlef. The same source also announced that two secondary schools, five middle schools, and two primary schools were set on fire between Thursday and Friday in the provinces of Blida, Oum El Bouaghi, Chlef, and Ain Defla.

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Phone Call From King Husayn

NC3112200193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1752 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this evening received a telephone call from King Husayn of Jordan during which he greeted him on New Year. King Husayn expressed his good wishes to the Egyptian president, government, and people. The two leaders exchanged views on the developments in the Middle East issue.

Mubarak Phones Saudi King on Peace Issue

NC3112201793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a telephone conversation with King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, this evening.

The two leaders exchanged views on the latest developments in the peace process and current contacts on the Palestinian issue.

President Mubarak congratulated King Fahd on the inauguration of the Saudi Shura Council. President Mubarak and King Fahd also exchanged greetings for New Year.

Newspaper Criticizes Rabin's Remarks

NC0201075194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's remarks regarding the draft compromise document, which was submitted during the Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo, and the need to accept this draft represents a new setback for the peace efforts. The paper says that the remarks are also bound to torpedo the principle of dialogue and negotiations that has been pursued by the parties to the conflict as a way to resolve an issue that has been going on for years.

In its editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH states the belief that these remarks demonstrate that the Israeli tactics in negotiating and in dealing with the issues at hand will negatively affect the other tracks.

The paper goes on to say that the fact that Rabin's statements were made following the laying of the cornerstones of 20 new West Bank settlements raises questions about Israel's intentions and Rabin's credibility.

AL-JUMHURIYAH maintains that the policy of playing for time cannot wipe out the rights of the wronged nations that are struggling to wrest back their legitimate rights. The paper concludes its editorial by saying that this policy is a time bomb that will open wide the door of violence.

Report on Israeli Contacts on Gas Exports

NC3012213393 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 27 Dec 93 p 1, 8

[Text] AL-'ARABI has learned that the Israelis have initiated contacts with oil companies operating in Egypt that have discovered huge gas reserves. The Israeli ambassador in Cairo, accompanied by a small delegation, visited Shell-Egypt with the objective of starting practical steps in an Israeli project to export Egyptian gas through a pipeline to Israel.

Shell announced that it had discovered the largest gas reserves in the western desert, in the region of al-Abyad. The reserves are estimated at 14 billion cubic feet. Despite the fact that Oil Minister Hamdi al-Banbi announced that Egypt's position on exporting gas is still under consideration, public oil companies in Egypt do not generally adhere to the official position and own shares in gas companies, in accordance with the oil agreements, in exchange for investments in prospecting and digging. It is likely that practical steps will be agreed upon between Shell-Egypt and Israel, particularly because Shell is decreasing its prospecting activities to save funds for the investments that will be required to develop gas discoveries.

On the other hand, practical steps have already been taken to set up a refinery with the Israeli company Paz Adil, which is a subsidiary of the Merhav investment group. This is being done using two Egyptian businessmen as a cover. One of these men is a prominent member of the National Democratic Party in Alexandria. The other is reported to be an arms dealer.

An Israeli technical delegation will be arriving in Cairo tomorrow to meet with a number of officials from Egyptian companies after 1 January 1994. It is worth noting that the head of the investment authority earlier denied that Israelis were participating in a refinery and that the responsible company is registered abroad to dodge the Arab boycott officially enforced against Israel.

Libyan Opposition Urges Firmness on Al-Kikhya

NC3112215293 Paris AFP in English 2054 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, Dec 31 (AFP)—Libyan opposition spokesmen in Cairo urged President Husni Mubarak Friday to intervene "more openly" to determine the fate of Mansur al-Kikhya, a prominent dissident who disappeared in the Egyptian capital earlier this month.

"According to our information, President Mubarak, who is displeased with the disappearance of Mr. al-Kikhya, has given his orders to competent authorities to do all that is possible in order to clarify this matter," said

Muhammad Jibril, who represents the National Front for the Salvation of Libya in Cairo.

He said the Front had urged Mubarak to "adopt a firm stand" against the party responsible for the abduction of al-Kikhya, leader of the National Rally which is opposed to Libya's leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Jibril said the "silence" which had prevailed over the past week over al-Kikhya's case only encouraged al-Qadhdhafi to commit other similar acts against members of the opposition.

The opposition had accused Libyan agents of kidnapping al-Kikhya who vanished on December 11 after leaving his hotel in Cairo where he was attending an Arab human rights conference. Libya denied last week any involvement in the affair, saying al-Kikhya was the victim of a feud between opposition groups.

"This silence gives way to other regimes to kidnap or liquidate dissidents living in Egypt," Jibril added.

The Egyptian president's political advisor, 'Usamah al-Baz, found no cooperation from Libyan officials during a visit to Tripoli on December 19 aimed at tracing the 63-year-old al-Kikhya, who was foreign minister under al-Qadhdhafi in the 1970s and represented Libya at the United Nations between 1976 and 1980.

Israel's Mosad Said Behind Libyan's Abduction

NC0101103794 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Dec 93 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] Well-informed sources have told AL-SHA'B that the Israeli intelligence service (Mosad) is probably behind the abduction of Libyan oppositionist Mansur al-Kikhya. The sources say that it is part of a scheme to undermine Egyptian-Libyan relations by blaming the operation on Libya and paving the way for a military strike against the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

The circles noted that an eight-member team from the U.S. intelligence service (CIA) will arrive in Cairo within a few days to investigate the disappearance of al-Kikhya. This is part of the U.S. Administration's plan to highlight the issue to adopt a military plan to strike at Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's regime under the pretext of his violations of human rights.

U.S. President Bill Clinton had instructed the U.S. intelligence service to adopt a speedy plan to identify the location of al-Kikhya and investigate claims that Libyan elements kidnapped him in collaboration with Egyptian security elements. He asked President Mubarak to intervene to clear up the mystery of al-Kikhya's disappearance. The visit to Libya of Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, came within this context.

In the past few days Cairo has received several U.S. reports accusing Libya of being involved in al-Kikhya's disappearance. The U.S. reports accused Libyan diplomats in Cairo of planning the operation and called on the Egyptian Government to downgrade its relations with Libya as a quick reaction to the operation. However, Egypt told Washington that it would not adopt any measures against Libya before the accusation is confirmed.

Al-Alfi: 'Terrorist' Plans for 31 Dec Foiled

NC3012221093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has revealed that the security forces thwarted many dangerous terrorist operations that were supposed to be implemented on New Year's Eve, including an attempt to assassinate about 12 political, media, information, and police figures. Some current ministers were among those targeted.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM that will be published tomorrow, Friday, al-Alfi said the security forces seized some maps and sketches of the routes followed by the individuals the terrorists were told to assassinate and the methods of attack, which have been thwarted.

Hasan al-Alfi said that New Year's Eve was supposed to witness huge explosions near eight large economic centers. He explained that one of the masterminds who planned and arranged the implementation of these operations was the amir of al-Badari, who was killed in a confrontation with the police yesterday.

Commenting on the role of foreigners in planning and financing these terrorist operations in Egypt, the interior minister referred to four foreign and Arab countries, without identifying them by name. He said these countries remain silent about terrorist training courses given inside camps on their territories, help in collecting donations, and conduct clandestine and coded communications with the persons in charge of carrying out operations inside Egypt.

The interior minister asserted that no less than 10 of the most dangerous al-Jihad and Islamic Group leaders plan, organize, and give orders to implement the operations. Al-Alfi added that there are intensive contacts with those countries to settle this dangerous situation. He explained that the training courses last at least six months and that every member who is instructed to carry out an operation is financed with $5,000, rising to $15,000 for some operations which have been uncovered.

At the conclusion of his interview with AL-AHRAM, the interior minister affirmed that no indiscriminate arrests have been made. This is proved by the fact that the defendants who were tried recently had rulings handed down against them. They are all active in terrorist operations and their confessions are full.

Ministry Statement on Raid on Asyut Island

NC3012190093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (MENA)—A statement issued today by the Interior Ministry explained that the security forces this morning raided al-Badari Island in Asyut, which is controlled by the al-Hamami family. The commander of the military wing of one of the terrorist organizations is a member of this family. He was killed in today's raid, and 57 other terrorists who were active members of the organization surrendered.

The statement said some papers, possessions, and documents about specific plans to target public figures and installations were seized, in addition to large amounts of weapons.

The statement added that one citizen was injured in this operation and a soldier from the Central Security Forces was killed.

The statement affirmed that this confrontation was part of the Interior Ministry's security policy to expand the efforts to confront various terrorist elements.

The following is the text of the Interior Ministry's statement about this operation:

As part of the security policy formulated by the Interior Ministry to expand the scope of the confrontation against all terrorist elements, which was initiated by the ministry to strike at the hotbeds and centers of public activities for these elements in the Governorates of Aswan, Qina, al-Fayyum, and Asyut—the most recent of which was to strike against the terrorist groups that were using the mosques of al-Rahmah and Miftah al-Rahman in Asyut as dens to hide their weapons and tracts, the State Security Investigations prepared themselves for a large-scale campaign on al-Badari Island. The island is controlled by the al-Hamami family, which has a strong grip on this region. The commander of the military wing of the terrorist organization in Upper Egypt is terrorist Salah Muhammad 'Atiyah al-Hamami.

In view of the large area of the island—about 4,500 feddans—and its rough topography, in addition to it being surrounded by the Nile, a full and comprehensive plan was prepared after two months of monitoring and scouting the island to determine all roads leading to and from it.

Forces of the highest level of combat training prepared for the raid. They were joined by international antiterrorism forces and armored and amphibious central security forces. These groups planned to stormed the island and arrest all the individuals hiding there and using it as a headquarters to mastermind their operations.

The forces were aided by units from the Asyut Security Department, the Criminal Investigations Department, and various investigations groups because of the amount of information they have about this island.

At 0330 Wednesday, the forces stormed the island in extreme secrecy and conducted a thorough search. The forces entered the island according to plan and tightened their control over all the island's inlets and outlets.

The operation resulted in the death of the terrorist group's leader and commander of its military wing, Salah Muhammad 'Atiyah al-Hamami, who was wanted in many terrorist cases, including Case 542/1993 of Markaz Sidfa. This case involves the assassination of Lieutenant Colonel Mahran 'Abd-al-Rahim, head of the State Security branch in (?Dayrut), and his son Muhammad.

This terrorist was regarded as the leader of the organization's military wing. He supervised the training, planning, and financing of the group's recent terrorist operations in Asyut, Qina, and Aswan Governorates.

An automatic rifle and a large quantity of ammunition were found in his possession.

Afterward, 57 active members of the terrorist organization surrendered to the raiding force. It turned out that some of them had carried out these operations, some had been in charge of training, and others were responsible for provisions, financial support, and conveying orders. All of them (?were) arrested.

The forces also seized papers, (?letters), and documents referring to operations that were being planned, including operations against some public figures and installations. The forces also seized other documents containing addresses of some of the organization's fugitive members in various governorates and providing important clues that will help the authorities arrest other fugitive terrorists.

Citizen Mustafa Kamil Ahmad 'Uthman was wounded in the clashes. He was hospitalized, and his current condition is positive. A Central Security Forces conscript, Rikabi Nur 'Ali, was killed.

The Prosecution Office was asked to initiate an investigation and take legal measures (?against) the arrested suspects. The forces are still combing the island. Their search is expected to take some time because of the rough topography of this island.

Plans are also being made for similar campaigns in all regions of the Republic's governorates that terrorists are reportedly using as hideouts.

The Interior Ministry affirms that, in the next stage, it will direct its blows forcefully and decisively against these sites to eliminate this renegade faction.

Security Forces Kill 'Terrorists', Detain 2

NC3112193693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—The security agencies in Aswan apprehended terrorist Ahmad Hasan Khalil in Idfu last night after news became available that he contacted terrorist groups and provided them with information. A responsible security source in the Interior Ministry stated that terrorist Ahmad Hasan Khalil, who was released recently, gave information on the disappearance of certain terrorists in a building in Kum 'Abbas in Asyut. The source noted that the search units in Asyut were immediately alerted and they confirmed the information. The source said that the two released terrorists Isma'il Abd-al-Rahman Hamdan and Mustafa Muhammad 'Umar, who were wanted for complicity in recent acts of terror in Asyut, were residing in the aforesaid building.

The source pointed out that the search units and security forces surrounded the approaches and exits to the building and stormed it. During the raid terrorist Isma'il 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamdan was killed as he tried to escape. Terrorist Mustafa Muhammad 'Umar was detained and he provided new information on the activities of certain terrorists and their hiding places. Search units are currently sorting out this information to arrest fugitive terrorists. The Prosecution Office has been notified to begin investigations.

Columnist Urges Dialogue With Islamists

NC0301131894

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic on 28 December publishes on page 9 an approximately 2,000-word article by Islamist writer Fahmi Huwaydi under the headline "From Mediation to Dialogue." Seeing a need "to stop the civil clash and achieve some reconciliation to lay the foundations of internal peace and stability," the writer calls for dialogue among all the political forces in Egypt, including the Islamists. "The various challenges cannot seriously be confronted except through the effective participation of all the political and intellectual forces and trends," he maintains.

Huwaydi calls for learning from the lesson of Algeria, which, "after two years of reluctance when the country paid dearly," concluded that it was futile to try to ignore the Islamic trend. He also notes contacts between the British Government and the Irish Republican Army, quoting British Prime Minister John Major as saying: "A responsible government can waste no chance for peace, no matter how remote."

The writer criticizes the position of "some secular elite groups" in Egypt for "putting all Islamists in one basket and branding them with extremism and terrorism on the pretext that one group actually practices terrorism and the other—the moderate group—'hides' this evil intention." He says this characterization is not lacking in falsehood, fabrication, and slander.

In his call for dialogue, the writer draws attention to three points:

The Islamic trend and all political forces "denied legitimacy" must be invited to the national dialogue. "All political forces, irrespective of their trends, are partners in the homeland and therefore have a right to contribute to its present and future."

He states: "The Islamic trend is emphasized here for many reasons, notably that it is the most powerful among the forces denied legitimacy. It is also the party targeted by most of the slander designed to exclude it from the dialogue. Participation in the dialogue gives that dialogue credibility and seriousness and may help it succeed eventually." The writer adds: "I do not hide my intellectual affiliation with that trend, affiliation with the project and the position, not beyond that."

He goes on: "When I discuss the Islamic trend, I do not mean a specific group, as some of those who like to offer interpretations and fish in muddy waters may think. I am concerned about the principle."

Finally, on the subjects of such a dialogue, the writer proposes: "First, democracy, second, democracy, and third, democracy."

People's Assembly Passes Unified Tax Bill

NC3112085493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] During a session that lasted until the early hours of this morning, the People's Assembly passed the Unified Tax Bill in its final reading. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said the law, as issued, is well-balanced considering the amendments that have been made to it. He explained that the government was responsive to all the views offered by the deputies. He added that a high-level committee chaired by the justice minister will amend all relevant legislation to bring it into line with current circumstances.

People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur asserted that the new law, which was discussed at length, contains no contradictions of Islamic shari'ah.

After passing the new bill, the People's Assembly adjourned until 8 January 1994. The Assembly approved articles 85, 87, and 88 pertaining to tax exemptions for families. It also approved Article 90, which specifies the tax rates as follows:
Section 1: 20 percent on income of up to 2,000 pounds.
Section 2: 27 percent on income greater than 2,500 pounds and up to 7,000 pounds.
Section 3: 35 percent on income greater than 7,000 pounds and up to 16,000 pounds.
Section 4: 40 percent on income greater than 16,000 pounds and up to 27,000 pounds.
Section 5: 45 percent on income greater than 27,000 pounds and up to 68,000 pounds.
Section 6: 48 percent on income greater than 68,000 pounds.

Regarding income from salaries and similar and other revenue [as heard], the tax rate on them will be the same as that in section 1— 20 percent.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges Vigilance Against 'Enemy'

LD0201112594 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2154 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Speech by leader of the revolution Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the masses of al 'Assah region; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Hello. First, it is good that you have arranged this meeting in this tent, this family-like atmosphere, instead of having to make speeches in public squares. This is much better, a family-like, brotherly meeting.

First, I am happy with your high morale and readiness for confrontation. This is not unusual for you as your kinfolk and your forefathers were the heroes of the battle of Sidi 'Abd al Samad, Al Dhlila, Sidi Said, Sidi 'Ali, Al Gdaline [against the Italian invading army in 1911]. History is a witness to the courage of your kinfolk, and their confrontation with foreign invasion, particularly after the fall of Zouara, and the enemy's attempt to advance toward Al 'Ujaylat, the mountains, and Fazzan. [passage omitted]

Now there is another confrontation, in another era, with different methods. So far, the battle has not reached the level it had attained with the Italians, with rifles, bullets, and machine-guns. So far, the battle continues with the enemy, but with other weapons and other methods. We want to be very careful this time. We do not want the enemy to laugh at us. The enemy fears us. It says: This land has an armed and trained people, prepared for confrontation. It will bring us other methods. We must be careful about this. [Crowd chants slogans: "Hang them in the public square," "O leader, do not show mercy to any traitor"]

Yes, the enemy sometimes takes into consideration the fact that we are a people prepared to fight, prepared for armed resistance. Sometimes it avoids military confrontation, but it enters the battle with us in another way. We must be vigilant to this.

This is what we should be aware of as a people who want to be victorious in this battle, and this confrontation, and allow this period to pass without the enemy achieving victory over us.

Our forefathers fought the Italians for years and years. The Italians had a super power state in those days in comparison to the Libyans. [passage omitted]

We are now in better shape. We are a trained and armed people and more numerous in number. Our population is larger now than in the past. We have industry, agriculture, water, and potential. We can fight and continue the battle for a longer period. Your kinsfolk and forefathers here were the area's lions and protectors. They confronted the Italians and offered their lives in sacrifice to prevent them advancing to 'Ujaylat, Jabal Nafusa, and Fazzan.

What is required of you in this place, which is called Al 'Assah, is that you be the guards...[crowd shouts slogans] What is required of you is that you will be protectors of the area once again as your fathers and forefathers had been.

Defense is a patriotic duty to protect the economy, the national product, and the Libyan dinar. We are not going to sell our homeland for our stomach. We do not protect our borders by a police force, by helicopters, or desert vehicles. We protect them by our conscience and our patriotism. We are committed, not to do these things [encroach on borders] and we will prevent anyone from doing them. That is protection. [crowd chants]

Our ancestors neither lived by smuggling nor did they rely on Italian goods. How could they have fought against Italy if they had been importing everything from it? We are now in a situation as if we were fighting against America, so we are not importing American goods. We are doing without them. We are as if we were fighting against France and Britain, and we are not importing goods from Paris and London. Our independence, sovereignty, and honor are above goods. [passage omitted]

Those who stretched their hands and dealt in francs sold us out. They enabled the Italians to reach Fazzan [in southern Libya] and enabled them to trample over the bodies of our martyrs.

The traitor now is not just afraid of being referred to public prosecution and the court, he is afraid that his family and his house may be burned, and the masses may storm him. Who can prevent the masses, when on a night of anger they stampede into a farm, a house, two houses, or a whole quarter, and burn and destroy them? In fact, neither the police nor anyone crying out over a loudspeaker is going to stop a deluge. However much you shout, you cannot stop a deluge. The masses are like a deluge. [crowd chants]

There is no place for treachery now. One cannot say that those who have betrayed would be subject to the law and the court. No, there are the masses. All the Libyan tribes are determined to strom the house and property of a traitor, and to burn him and his family. The situation has become unbearable. In fact no one can prevent them. I regret that the situation should come to this, but those are the masses.

Traitors used to be referred to the law and the court and that was sufficient for us. However, the masses are above the law, above courts and above everything. [passage omitted]

The masses can storm any place without mercy or pity where treachery is concerned. This has occurred before my eyes. Al-Ja'akah's [a Libyan national reported to have supplied evidence concerning the Lockerbie incident to the West] family were about to be cut to pieces in front of me. The masses said: Even if you provide guards for any traitorous family, we will storm the guards. We will regard them as protectors of treachery.

Confrontation is now in this manner. The Muslim brothers are treacherous; the Islamic Liberation Party is treacherous; al-Takfir wal Hijrah [Islamic movement in Egypt] is treacherous; the Da'wah, the Jihad, the Zandaqah, all these movements have foreign intelligence behind them. They are involved in smuggling; they deal in dollars, foreign exchange, consumer goods; they run after Western goods. All this is treason. If we were to face up to the enemy we must be at a high level of awareness, comprehension, and determination. We must know what weapons are required for the battle.

If hundreds of kilometers separate you from the enemy, I do not believe that one should get hold of a rifle or a revolver, aim at the enemy and shoot him, because there is a weapon that corresponds with a long distance. When you are face to face with the enemy, sometimes even the rifle is no good, and steel weapons are used. That is the best weapon in this case. One should know the right weapon needed for close combat. We must know the right weapon for the battle now raging between us and the West so that we may defeat the enemy. If the enemy is shooting at you with a machine-gun and you have a revolver, then that is not it. The machine-gun has a range that a revolver cannot reach. You would not be able to touch the enemy, who would defeat you.

Let us live like our forefathers used to live, a clean life, a life accepted by our own conscience, a life that allows us to be free with our heads held high, relying on our land, our animals, our farming, our trees, palm trees, olive trees, relying on ourselves, our own production. But if we keep looking across the sea at their consumer goods and then challenge them, we would not be able to do so. I have already told you: If our forefathers were relying on Italian canned food, or if they were dealing in Italian lire, then we would not have been able to fight Italy. How could we have fought Italy while eating, drinking, and dressing with its products? [passage omitted]

Great, that is it, exactly. Great. In reality you people in Al 'Assah area do not need a speech from me. You do not need a long speech. You understand what I have been saying. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Warns of Return of Colonialism

LD0201222094 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1923 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Address by leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Surman and Bu 'Isa on 2 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers and sons of Surman, the world hears the strong voice of defiance from you. The voice of defiance is not only the voice of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, but it is the voice of the masses, the free masses. Here in Surman, the same as yesterday and the other days in other regions, everywhere there are people ready for confrontation; people who insist on living on the land of their fathers and ancestors freely, independently, and with pride. [passage omitted]

Let the world hear the voice of the masses of Bu 'Isa and Surman. Let the world hear the voice of the free masses, however much those around us surrender and whatever the shivers of the rulers of the Arab nation might be. They want the Arab nation to be subjugated to its enemies. Whatever those who surrender might do, whatever those who prostrate themselves might do, and whatever those who tremble might do, we have decided to live freely and with dignity on the land of our fathers and ancestors. [passage omitted]

For this reason, to live in freedom and live a life worthy of the free man, for this reason we have decided that we will confront anyone who wants to challenge us over the land of our fathers and forefathers. This is our land, the land of the fathers and forefathers. We paid for this land with the lives of our fathers and forefathers. We have written its history in their dear blood. We will not squander one grain of sand of this land. The banners of this land will never fly under the banners of the colonialists. No foreigner or colonialist can settle this land. We challenge anyone who wants to challenge us. [passage omitted]

The defiance started in Libya; the cry of confrontation started in Libya; and the preparations for battle started in Libya.

Brothers, we hear now another voice from Sudan. Sudan announced yesterday the expulsion of the British ambassador because he considered Sudan a British colony.

The dreams of the colonialists have returned again. The dreams of the West have returned again. Their ambitions in Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Libya, and everywhere in the Arab world have returned. Their ambitions have returned again.

Yesterday Britain acted as if Sudan was not celebrating the 38th anniversary of its independence. Britain ignored Sudan as an independent state. Britain ignored Sudan's dignity and Sudan's independence. Britain proceeded along the course of marching on the Arab homeland, trampling on the dignity of the Arab homeland, and Arab existence with an indifference to the national sovereignty of the peoples of the Arab nation.

Its ambassador quite insolently interfered in Khartoum's domestic affairs. Brothers, look at this. It is not the year 1881 or 1882 or 1830, and it is not even 1911 [the date of the Italian invasion of Libya]. Today it is 1993-94. Britain behaved as if Sudan was a colony that belonged to King Faruq and Faruq belonged to Britain. This is how Britain sees Egypt's and Sudan's independence.

Yesterday, however, the Sudanese people headed by al-Bashir announced that the confrontation was not only in Libya, it has extended to Sudan by the expulsion of the British ambassador. Sudan said to him that Sudan is an independent state and only death can separate it.

This is what happened yesterday. The colonialists recognized the legitimacy of the Somali national resistance. They recognized Aidid as its national leader and that they must negotiate with him after they used to say that he was a war criminal who must be captured.

Brothers, this is a retreat in the face of the determination of the Somali people to uphold truth and defeat lies. The truth is that every nation has the right to live on the land of its fathers and forefathers in freedom and dignity. Brothers, all the peoples possess the right to die in defense of their honor and independence.

The colonialists will pull back when they face these [words indistinct] these challenges and this determination; the determination of peoples to live freely brothers. Yes, they will have to be very wary. This is coming from the masses of Surman and Bu 'Isa only, not to mention the masses of the Arab nation and the masses of Libya as a whole. There are masses in Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Iraq, the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen, and Sudan [repeated as heard]. There are innumerable masses and the colonialists will find it difficult to impose their dominion again on a nation that is beating the drums of confrontation, a nation that has decided to live freely.

Yes, brothers, we are not just talking, we are demonstrating with deeds. The national resistance in southern Lebanon is daily writing in blood the words that we are speaking now, and it is paving the path of liberation with the bodies of the martyrs of Hizballah and the Lebanese national resistance. There is fighting every day [word indistinct] in southern Lebanon and Palestine under the leadership of Palestinian Jihad, the Fatah Eagles, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Popular Front, the Popular Democratic Front, the Popular Front-General Command, the Fatah of Intifadah, and Fatah-Revolutionary Council. [passage omitted]

Brothers, those who sell Palestine now in a public auction will be punished by the Palestinian people. Brothers, those who betray the Arab nation will see their just fate.

Brothers, we did not decide to go outside our borders. We did not decide to commit aggression. We did not decide to sabotage the world. We did not decide to trample on international legitimacy. We only decided to live with respect and dignity on our land. This is what we demanded and we will defend it until death. They are the ones who trampled on the international treaties and tore the UN Charter. They are the ones who violated international law. [passage omitted]

Al-Muntasir Denies Responsibility for Abduction

NC0101122094 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Dec 93 p 1

[Report from Tripoli by Ahmad al-Siyufi]

[Text] Libyan Foreign Minister [title as published] 'Umar al-Muntasir has emphasized that Libya has nothing to do, directly or indirectly, with the abduction of Libyan oppositionist Mansur al-Kikhya. He added: We are certain that the Egyptian authorities will discover the facts and identify those behind this crime. According to al-Muntasir, the purpose of this crime is to drive a wedge between Egypt and Libya and spoil the relations between the two countries, particularly since several parties have an interest in clouding the atmosphere.

Al-Muntasir's remarks came in response to a question by AL-SHA'B concerning the mystery surrounding al-Kikhya's disappearance during a news conference held at the Libyan Foreign Ministry yesterday.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHA'B, Egyptian ambassador to Libya Lieutenant General Mustafa al-Shadhili has noted that he completely rules out Libya's involvement in this issue. He added that he is almost certain that Libya has nothing to do with this issue, as the investigations will show.

Libyan sources have stressed that Libya is not connected to the incident for the following reasons:

1. Al-Kikhya is practicing politics and does not carry arms. Were the principle of abduction to be used, which is rejected, it would be more worthwhile to use it against those who carry and train with arms.

2. Al-Kikhya's position on the Lockerbie case was in line with the Libyan stance. Al-Kikhya denied Libya's responsibility for blowing up the U.S. aircraft.

3. Various attempts are being made by some Western states to spoil Egyptian-Libyan relations.

4. The incident comes at a time when the Western charges against Libya in connection with the Lockerbie issue have started to collapse. Thus, something new had to be found to strike at Libya.

Basic Peoples Congress Masses Demonstrate

LD0301145294 Tripoli JANA in English 1433 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Annar [January] 3 (JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY)—The masses of the Basic Peoples Congresses in Rajban rallied in a demonstration of protest and anger for the tightening of unfair sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahiriya.

The masses announced their solid rejection for the blockade and for any language of threats or warnings applied by the western states against the Great Jamahiriya.

A statement was issued to express rejection, defiance and the readiness to defend the Great al-Fatah revolution and the Arab nation against the lurking attacks of the vicious neo-crusaders.

Sudan

Government Orders British Ambassador Expelled

EA3112155093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] The Sudanese Government has decided that the presence of UK Ambassador to Sudan Peter Streams does not serve the interests of the two countries. The relevant authorities have therefore given Streams two weeks to leave the country.

Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, declared during a news conference yesterday that the British ambassador was behind the postponement of the archbishop of Canterbury's visit to Sudan. Mr. Khalifah said peaceful coexistence between religions and the good spirit prevailing between the Muslims and the Christians of Sudan constituted the motives for enemies to conspire and for intrigue to occur in an effort to shake up the stability being enjoyed by the people of Sudan.

Meanwhile, Bishop Gabriel Rorech, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, said the British ambassador was working to create distortions and differences between the government and the Episcopal Church in Sudan.

Government 'Will Not Withdraw' Decision

EA0201171094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, the speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, has told our radio correspondent that the Sudanese Government will not withdraw from the decision it has issued about the British ambassador's departure from the country within a period not exceeding two weeks. He added: We have asked for the British ambassador's departure in an attempt to improve relations between the two countries. It is for Britain to nominate another person from its embassy to be acting ambassador. He stressed that the matter was legitimate and does occur in diplomatic relations. He pointed out that the British Government's demand that the Sudanese Government should reconsider its decision is a matter which is not legitimate in these relations.

He also made reference to the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to Sudan. He said that he considered the archbishop as a VIP and he ought to have entered Sudan through the capital, Khartoum, but regrettably he went to see the rebels and visited the citizens who were under the control of the rebels.

Commentary Views British 'Interference'

EA0201171594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Excerpts] The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, has confirmed that the expulsion of the British ambassador in Khartoum was in response to his interference in the internal affairs of the country at a time when the Sudanese people were celebrating the passing of 38 years since Sudan received its independence and since the expulsion of the British colonialists. Within this framework, ladies and gentlemen, revolves the radio commentary on the news, written and read by our colleague Abd al-Amin Awad.

[Begin Al-Amin Awad recording] Through the treatment and [word indistinct] in the British media of the question of the expulsion by the Sudanese authorities of the British ambassador in Khartoum, and the reactions which followed here and there, it will appear to any observer of this intensive media interest that the British Government aims at transforming Sudan's request into a diplomatic crisis and perhaps to sever relations [qati'ah] with Sudan. This is a baffling matter for many reasons, including the fact that when Sudan presented its legitimate demand to the British Government it did not commit a prohibited act but was exercising its natural right, which it has earned by reason of its sovereignty and its affiliation to the civilized world as well as the treaties, regulations, and laws which regulate that affiliation accepted by members of the international community, including Britain. [passage omitted]

With an objective understanding of the expulsion decision, the British message to Sudan, which speaks about the need for Sudan to reconsider the expulsion of its ambassador in Khartoum, appears as a waste of time without any benefit.

Indeed the British Government reached the level of insolence and triviality when it fixed a 4-day period for receiving a reply from the Sudanese Government on the reconsideration of its decisions. This is a naked challenge revealing the extent of arrogance and vanity with which the empire wants to deal with its colonies over which the sun has already set. The British ambassador in Khartoum (?thinks himself) in the position of the British high commissioner of those far-off days.

It is incumbent upon the British Government to realize that the Sudanese decision was not a hasty decision and has no direct link to the visit of the archbishop of Canterbury to Sudan even though the matters relating to the visit were the last straw that broke the camel's back. Sudan has shown a great deal of patience concerning the reckless practices and [word indistinct] behavior of Mr. Peter Streams, the British ambassador, monitored by the security services. They were practices and behavior that Britain would not accept in terms of the level of its relations with Sudan, neither would Sudan accept them in its relations with the British Government and people. [passage omitted]

We look forward to the British Government's dealing with the Sudanese decision with (?wisdom) far from convulsive reaction to Sudan. It should think carefully before proceeding to take a silly step making things even worse by increasing its estrangement with Khartoum, particularly as relations were, in fact, lukewarm if not tense between the two countries. [end recording]

Decision 'Could be Reversed'

LD0301135394 Rabat MAP in English 1323 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] London, Jan 3 (MAP)—Sudan has accused the British ambassador to Khartoum, Peter Streams, of working against its efforts to mend fences with the West. But a "highly-placed political sources" hinted in a report in the government newspaper "AL-INGAZ AL-WATANI" that the expulsion order could be reversed if Britain showed understanding of the reasons behind the order. On Thursday Sudan said that it was giving Streams two weeks to leave. Britain has given Sudan until Tuesday to reverse the decision or face retaliation. The Sudanese official said that the expulsion had nothing to do with the ambassador's contacts with Sudanese opposition leaders or controversy over a visit to southern Sudan by George Carey, the archbishop of Canterbury.

Foreign Minister Denies Attack on Eritrea

EA0201191594 Khartoum SUNA in English 1645 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Jan (SUNA)—Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, minister of foreign affairs, reiterated that the Sudan respects the governments of other countries and did not interfere in the affairs of these states. Dr. Abu-Salih said the relations of Sudan and Eritrea were friendly and not affected and that meetings between the two countries would continue at all levels.

The foreign minister affirmed that the Sudan sincerely made efforts for stability of not only Eritrea but the whole area of the African horn because stability was a basic priority of the development process. Dr. Abu-Salih also said in a press statement that the Sudan did not allow any acts leading to undermining these strong and stable ties which would remain so between the two states.

Dr. Abu-Salih also said that any issue relating to the progress of the relations of the two states would be discussed and negotiated at all levels, adding that dialogue, exchange of opinions and consultation was the better way to settle any dispute which arised [as received] from time to time.

The foreign minister also denied any link between the Eritrean president's recent statement reported by the news agencies on hostile armed movements launched from the Sudan and the Sudan's decision to expel the British ambassador in Khartoum, indicating the Sudanese-Eritrean links were friendly and that the meetings between the two states were held at all means [as received].

In response to the question on the archbishop of Canterbury's reported visit to the south of the Sudan he said that any state has sovereignty on its territories and did not allow entrance to its territories except through its legitimate doors and permission.

Denies Refugee Excursion Into Eritrea

EA0301160594 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Jan (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has said that Sudan has been playing host to refugees in accordance with the rules of asylum and they are not allowed to undertake any armed activity or any other political action against their own countries.

In a statement he made to the newspaper AL-INQADH AL-WATANI published today concerning the infiltration of some armed elements across the border [into Eritrea] under full security cover, he said that no reports had been received about what could be considered [words indistinct] and to disturb the peace in the refugee camps. His excellency added that all the refugee camps were under the full administrative control of the UNHCR. They are far away from the border and constitute no threat of any kind against neighboring countries. He stressed that the UNHCR's priority [words indistinct] monitors all activities by the refugees and does not allow any violation of the international conventions governing asylum.

It is worth mentioning that the number of Eritrean refugees in Sudan exceeds 500,000 living in 30 different places. Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki announced that his forces had killed more than 20 persons who tried to infiltrate into Eritrea from Sudan on 16 December. He described Sudan as the source of the problem. He accused the infiltrators as having come to liberate the area.

Council of Ministers Discuss Ties With Ethiopia

EA0201193094 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Today the Council of Ministers held its regular meeting under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Republic. At the beginning of the meeting the council was briefed by Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the vice president of the Republic, on the outcome of the meeting of the joint Sudanese-Ethiopian ministerial committee held in Khartoum recently. His excellency said that the free political management of the two leaderships in the two countries had pushed the bilateral relations to a wider horizon so as to serve the issues of development and cooperation between the two sides. Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih added that a full spirit of understanding prevailed in the meetings which dealt with political, security, and economic issues. He stressed that Sudanese-Ethiopian relations had acquired strength and force due to the mutual confidence between the two countries as a result of the depth of relations linking the two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

Garang Rebels Accused of Attacking Refugee Camp

EA3012173493 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Today's AL-INQADH AL-WATANI newspaper carries a report from Kampala saying that a group of 51 armed rebels from rebel Garang's faction attacked the camp housing Sudanese refugees at (Dango) in Zaire, with the aim of liquidating some elements. Four citizens in the camp were killed. Firing continued for over (?an hour).

The report states that the Zairian forces succeeded in capturing one of the rebels, after which the group of rebel Garang threatened to kill the official in charge of (Dango), the police officer, and the official in charge of the refugees, unless a detained rebel who had participated in the attack was handed over.

The Zairian authorities have condemned the aggression inflicted by the rebels on refugee camps and refused the rebel demand. In response to the rebel provocations, they have sent a large force of Zairian soldiers to secure the camp and the surrounding area. UNHCR headquarters in Geneva has been informed about the incident.

Al-Bashir Urges Self-Reliance in 1 Jan Address

LD0101140794 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service in Arabic 0908 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Address by General 'Umar Al-Bashir, president of the Republic of Sudan, in Shandi, marking Sudan's 38th independence anniversary—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; praise be to God and peace and prayers be upon the best of the prophets, our lord Mohammed, and all his kith and kin.

My dear compatriots; my family and tribe in Shandi; peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. It is, brothers and sisters, a unique moment in which we meet on this blessed day—the day of the anniversary of Sudan's independence—with the masses of Shandi. [passage omitted]

The believer, brothers and sisters, does not seek refuge except in Almighty God. He does not kneel except to Almighty God. He does not ask anyone except Almighty God. Also, after gaining real independence, we do not seek refuge or kneel before anyone except Almighty God.

We ask nothing from anyone or from any state. It is because we only ask this from Almighty God. We are not asking anyone or any state for strength, because strength belongs to God the all powerful. [passage omitted] Our slogan is self-reliance; we should eat what we grow and wear what we make. [passage omitted]

On this day we salute our people's valiant and victorious forces currently deployed at the locations of operations, presenting one martyr after another and wounded after wounded in order to preserve our independence. Salutations to them while they are irrigating the land of the south with their blood so that the land may sprout dignity and honor. Salutations to them while they are protecting our independence, land, honor, and dignity.

Salutations on this day, brothers and sisters, to the unified police officers and men who in the past stood in support of the national movement, and who are now standing with their armed forces in defense of honor and land, and in protection of independence. Salutations on this day to our farmers who have liberated our decision and preserved our independence by the cereals they produce to protect the dignity and honor of the Sudan. Salutations to our farmers who have transformed our slogans—that we should eat from what we farm—into the reality we are living today. [passage omitted]

From this rostrum I give directions for setting up a national committee to review and write the history of the national movement so that our own generation and the coming generation will learn about the struggle of our forefathers, the leaders of the national movement, so that they can receive their appreciation. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, our people had to make some stops during crucial moments of their unity stand which led to the independence of Sudan. But after independence some of our leaders became preoccupied with worldly matters. They fought one another and were busy gathering booty, distributing gains and struggling for power. They squandered our independence and they neglected our decision-making; they squandered our land to let the mutineers sieze it. They neglected our people so much so that they began to beg for charity and aid. But while the leaders of this country were being complacent, the revolution surged forward, either a revolution led by the army and supported by the Sudanese people, or a revolution led by the Sudanese people and supported by the armed forces. This has been the case until, brothers and sisters, the revolution of national salvation came to be, and it was led by the army. It was supported by all the members of the Sudanese nation, who stood behind it and who pushed it forward . The revolution of national salvation came to restore the real meaning of independence. It came in order to realise independence.

Then we began to call for self-reliance. The Sudanese people did not fail us. Almighty God did not fail us after we rejected all the threats of the West and its aides, after we rejected all the temptations of the forces of haughtiness and colonialism. We prayed to Almighty God, asking for reinforcement and help and relief. We all looked up to Him. He did not fail us. He provided us with ample relief and abundant production, as a result of which we managed to realise self-sufficiency, liberate our decision-making and realise our independence. [passage omitted]

We recalled Almighty God's words. We remembered His words and we said: For us, God is sufficent, and He is the best disposer of affairs. [Chants of "God is Great"]

We turned to your sons and brothers in the armed forces, provided them with equipment and military supplies and called for the formation of the People's Defense Forces. All that was in obedience to Almighty God's order to provide them with all possible power and supplies. Your sons and brothers took part in crossing operations [as heard]. These operations were a true crossing over from the state of defeat to victory, weakness to strength, degradation and defeat to dignity and pride. The sword of the crossing pounded the rebel battalions and was the cause of terror amongst the enemies of Almighty God.

The salvation revolution came to rebuild Sudan, to restore the glory and dignity of the Sudanese people, to put Sudan back into its normal place as leader and imam of the peoples of the world. [passage omitted]

We are looking to build Sudan, a Sudan with honor and pride. We must overcome all difficulties to achieve this noble aim because the road to gaining self-respect and pride is not easy but is full of hurdles, obstacles and thorns. But our honorable people can overcome all the difficulties, all the hurdles and all the obstacles. [chants of "God is Great," and "There is no God but one God"] [passage omitted]

We have also gone to the oilfields which the previous governments placed as a hostage in the hands of the American Chevron Company. The salvation revolution came to liberate Sudan's oil. Work has now begun in earnest to extract and refine Sudan's oil.

Brothers and sisters, in order to build Sudan, we must also build an infrastructure of roads in order to connect the different parts of the country and facilitate the movement of people and goods. The Defiance Highway, the artery of the north, the western Salvation Highway, the Peace Highway, the Salvation Highway from Madani to Manaqil, the Halfa-Sab'at highway, all these, brothers and sisters, are now being constructed with purely Sudanese efforts.

Life is also being returned to the railways, that vital artery, and work has been carried out to build airports in Port Sudan, Dunqula and Al-Fashir. There has also been work to adapt ports and build new ports, like the expansion of Port Sudan and the ports of Sawakin and Usayf. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, on the anniversary of independence we should recall the lofty stances taken by the Sudanese people, in all its factions. The Sudanese people were united in the realization of self-autonomy and the signing of the self-autonomy agreement. We should salute the memory of our leaders on that date—the end of 1955—19 December; the day when the Sudanese people forgot all their tribal and party differences; when the word for the Sudanese people was united, when the decision on independence was declared from inside parliament. These are the stances which we should recall because all this achievement was realized thanks to the unity of the word and the rank. Had God willed that we should continue in that unity we would today be in a different position to our current one, and we would be in a different situation to our present situation.

But the leaders, following that great achievement, became disunited. Sudan's identity was lost. Sudan's interests were lost. We lagged behind, until the salvation revolution came to restore national unity and reunite the Sudanese rank, and to invite all—after we had placed all our trust in Almighty God and after we raised the banner of "There is no God but God"—to unite and close our rank to build the new Sudan.

Today I call on all the sons of Sudan to forget all our old differences, all our party, sect, tribal, and regional differences, so that we talk together and join together behind the banner: There is no God but God and Mohammad is the messenger of God. [passage omitted] [Chants of "God is great"]

Brothers and sisters, on this day we must not forget peace and the call for peace, and we must call on our brothers, whom time and the enemies of Sudan have exposed to danger, to let us talk together and to sit down with us to hold a dialogue for the sake of peace in order to restore the unity of Sudan and bring peace to all the Sudanese people. We want this day to be a day of peace, and this year to be the year of peace in which peace is attained, Almighty God permitting. We want peace for all the people of Sudan and we want peace for Sudan with all its neighbors and brothers. We do not interfere in anyone's affairs nor do we plot against anyone. We only declared our independence and our independent decision. We want to build our Sudan, relying on ourselves, Almighty God permitting.

We also call on all peoples of the world to work for peace and call for peace, to work for the good of humankind and to assure the future of their sons, to develop humankind and underdeveloped regions and those peoples who are bowed under the burden of backwardness, hunger and ignorance.

Greetings on this day to our brothers in brotherly Iraq. We praise their steadfastness and their stand against arrogance. We praise them and pray that they become victorious. We wish them consolidated victory, God willing.

Greetings to our brothers in the Libyan Jamahiriyah while they resist colonialism and the new sanctions imposed on them. We do not forget, on this day, to urge our brothers in brotherly Yemen to forget their disputes and to safeguard their trusteeship.

We must also remember on this day our brothers who are being exposed to mass liquidation—our brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

This is a living example of man's injustice toward his brother mankind. This living example is an example of human rights' violations in the heart of Europe, which accuses us of violating human rights. Our brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina are undergoing ethnic cleansing, not for committing any mistake or crime other than saying: There is no God but one God, Mohammad is the Prophet of God. And they accuse us of persecuting people of other religions.

Also, greetings to our brothers in Somalia for their steadfastness and stand which forced the colonizing powers to leave Somalia.

Greetings to the people of Palestine and the sons of Palestine, to the revolution of rocks and the children of rocks who stood up against the Zionist enemy, made him bow, humiliated him and made him sit down for negotiations.

You have heard through the media that we have asked Britain, the colonizing state, to recall its ambassador in Khartoum because he interfered in and encroached on what did not concern him, and he forgot that today we are celebrating the 38th anniversary of the exit of his people, who were expelled and alienated, not to return, God willing.

Brothers and sisters, we wanted it to be a lesson for them and a lesson that we are independent and will not permit anyone to harm our independence. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, my family and kinsfolk, I greet you and hope that we will continue to meet on the path of inimitable achievement. God is great, and all power to Sudan. Peace be upon you and the mercy and blessings of God.

Kuwait

UN: Iraqi Evacuation From Um Qasr Complete

LD0201193694 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] UNIKOM [UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission] spokesman 'Abd-al-Latif Qabbaj has declared that all Iraqis on the Kuwaiti side of the area of Um Qasr were evacuated before 1 January. Qabbaj added that the evacuation operation began in mid-November under the supervision of UN officials. He further said that the Kuwaiti authorities were handed the Kuwaiti side of Um Qasr yesterday Saturday and that it was now under their control.

UNIKOM commander (Krishna Thaba) inspected the area after the evacuation to make sure that all the Iraqis had left. Thaba said he hoped that the Iraqis would also be evacuated from the demilitarized zone of al-Abdali as scheduled.

The head of the international organizations department at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, Abd al-Hamid al-'Awadhi, had previously declared that 63 Iraqis were still in al-Abdali zone. Al-Awadhi added that these Iraqis would be evacuated after a UN mission assessed the amount of money they should be offered as compensation.

Sentences Imposed for Collaboration With Iraqis

LD0201164494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1447 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Kuwait, 2 Jan (KUNA)—The state security court here today sentenced a person accused of belonging to the so-called Iraqi People's Army to 10 years hard labor and deportation upon completion of the sentence. The same court acquitted Hani Marzuq, a 36 year-old stateless man, who was charged with collaborating with the troops of the Iraqi regime during their occupation of Kuwait.

The court, which held its session today under the chairmanship of Counsellor Salah al-Fahd, had first sentenced Jabir Sughayir Farhan, a 34-year-old stateless man, to 10 years hard labor. The defendant had claimed that he had been forced to join the so-called Iraqi People's Army, alleging that he had been threatened with execution if he refused to do so.

The same court has postponed the case of defendant Khalid Sahir al-Khaldi, a 42-year-old Kuwaiti national, who is accused of joining the so-called Iraqi People's Army during Kuwait's occupation by the Iraqi regime, until 12 February 1994 when it will listen to the speech for the defense.

The aforementioned defendant has claimed that he was taking out identity cards for members of his tribe, from the province of al-Jahran, to enable them to travel in Kuwait during the occupation of the latter by the troops of the Iraqi regime. He added: "I did not knock on anyone's door; it was they who came to my house asking for my protection out of fear of the Iraqi People's Army and anyone who says otherwise is ungrateful."

The same court has also postponed the case of defendant Mufidah Salih al-Haj 'Amr, a Jordanian woman who is on the run and who is accused of passing information to the enemy.

Minister Denies Foreign Pressure on Sentencing

LD0301092694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0632 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 3 Jan (KUNA)—Mishari al-'Anjari, the Kuwaiti minister of justice and administrative affairs, in press statements published here today denied the existence of any foreign pressure on Kuwait to halt the carrying out of sentences passed by the judiciary on those who are convicted. He said in an interview with AL-QABAS that if it happened it would be an infringement on the state's independence and sovereignty and an interference in its internal affairs, and this we reject. He added: Nevertheless, we at the ministry or at the public prosecution service do not deny that we have received many cables—whose originators are unknown—requesting the reduction of sentences passed on some of the convicted. In reply to a question on whether the death sentences that were passed by the state security court would be commuted, the minister said: It is known that the final judicial verdicts should be carried out, and these may be in the form of prison sentences, death sentences, or acquittals. No death sentence will be carried out until it is ratified by the amir. Those sentenced to death are placed in jail until the amir issues his decision to ratify the sentence, commute it, or issue a pardon. [passage omitted]

Minister Views Conditions for Attending Summit

NC0101105794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Jan (MENA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah has declared that his country is willing to attend an Arab summit if there is a strong general wish to hold such a meeting, particularly as Kuwait has always called for unifying Arab ranks and ending Arab disagreements.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, the Kuwaiti information minister added that the countries that broke ranks, departed from pan-Arab unanimity, and backed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait must first reconsider their position and recognize the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, particularly those dealing with border demarcation and the liberation of Kuwait. He said that this demand is not negotiable and that the countries that backed Iraq must take the first step on this matter.

He pointed out that Kuwait regards its borders, its existence, and its POW's as nonnegotiable, fundamental, and fateful issues.

Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah regretted the current lack of inter-Arab solidarity and hoped that the Arab countries will succeed in surmounting this ordeal so that matters can return to normal and those in error can rectify their stances.

It should be noted that Kuwait refers to the countries that supported the Iraqi invasion as the adversary countries. They include Jordan, the PLO, Yemen, Sudan, Mauritania, and Algeria.

'Source' Views Ties With 'Adversary' States

LD0201120094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1105 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Kuwait 2 Jan, (KUNA)—A responsible source at the Interior Ministry said that the ministry would not allow nationals of the adversary states to enter Kuwait, even in the event of the restoration of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and those states.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-RAY AL-'AM published today, the source says that the cause for this is the position of these states and their nationals during the period of the savage invasion and the occupation of Kuwait by the Iraqi regime, positions that prolonged its occupation of Kuwait. The source has also stressed that the Interior Ministry recently discovered that some nationals of the adversary states had entered the country with false passports and nationalities, and they are now being investigated.

He said that the ministry was still engaged in large-scale search operations to arrest those who contravened the residence law. The ministry, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs, has also referred to the public prosecutor's office a number of foreign nationals for contravening employment laws and regulations. He also said that in the new year, the country would witness greater and more stable security now that the ministry has laid down several plans that will be implemented in stages, among which is restricting the number of immigrants, the confiscation of weapons still in the hands of some people, and severity in the carrying out of the laws pertaining to the country's security and safety.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Replies to Clinton Cable on Shura Council

LD3012144693 Riyadh SPA in English 1224 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 30, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud received last night a cable from the U.S. President Bill Clinton over the inauguration of the Shoura Council. President Clinton expressed pleasure on the occasion and welcomed the developments concerning the establishment of the Shura Council and regional councils as important steps that cope with the history and traditions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He congratulated King Fahd, the royal family and the Saudi people on the political reforms.

Replying the cable, King Fahd thanked President Clinton on the friendly contents of the cable and expressed good wishes to President Clinton and the American people. King Fahd expressed hope that the Saudi Government would continue the welfare march of development and construction.

Yemen

Salih, al-Bid Reportedly Agree To Meet in Amman

JN3012171593 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Dec 93 pp 1, 30

[Excerpt] Sanaa, Amman, AL-ITTIHAD, and news agencies—Jordanian mediation has managed to set a date for a meeting between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid to defuse the political crisis in Yemen. AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the meeting will be held in Amman next week. This will be the first sign of a relaxation since the eruption of the crisis four months ago.

Responsible Jordanian sources informed AL-ITTIHAD yesterday evening that Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, envoy of the Yemeni president, who has arrived in Amman on a visit, informed Jordanian officials led by the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, that Salih and al-Bid have agreed to meet in Amman. The JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY has reported that King Husayn expressed satisfaction over progress in the efforts to end the crisis after the meeting he had held with the Yemeni envoy. The agency added that the king also expressed his wish to continue to aid fraternal Yemenis to enable them to surmount this transient crisis in order to safeguard the special accomplishments of fraternal Yemen as well as its great pan-Arab role, given that the success of Yemeni unity will nurture the nation's hopes of achieving unity and democracy.

Sanaa Television has also noted al-Bid's agreement to meet with Salih. The television noted that al-Bid informed a delegation of clergymen who are mediating the crisis between him and Salih that he is ready to meet with the Yemeni president once efforts to implement the 18 points the Yemeni Socialist Party has proposed are started.

For his part, Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah has expressed optimism over the prospects of ending the political crisis in Yemen. He added that the political dialogue currently under way in Yemen has expunged the likelihood of resorting to violence, and confirmed that unity is there to stay. [passage omitted]

More on Jordanian Mediation

JN3112123793 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 30-31 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] Informed political sources have revealed the secrets of the recent visit to Yemen by [Jordanian Royal

Court Chief] al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. The visit, according to these sources, was more than just a mediation mission to resolve the Yemeni crisis which has reached a difficult stage.

The sources, who met Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih last week, told AKHIR KHABAR that the Yemeni leadership asked al-Sharif Zayd to help it reorganize the Yemeni Armed Forces which appear to be gradually affected by the ongoing tribal and party conflict in Yemen.

Al-Sharif Zayd will supervise the drafting of a plan to reorganize the Yemeni Armed Forces which are facing technical problems in terms of organization, training, general mobilization, and combat capabilities.

Our sources added that al-Sharif Zayd was accompanied by a number of specialists who reviewed the plan with the Yemeni leadership. The sources added that the Yemeni president officially asked the Jordanian leadership to prepare such a plan. The Jordanian leadership held contacts with all parties to find common grounds that would defuse the crisis before it explodes.

Last week, the two parties to the Yemeni dispute agreed to neutralize the Armed Forces and to avoid the provocations that would involve them in the conflict.

Yemeni diplomatic sources in Amman told AKHIR KHABAR that the Yemeni leadership explained to mediators that it wants to remove the roots of division which threaten the Yemeni Army ranks following the emergence of signs of division. The sources added: The Yemeni leadership is unanimous on the need to carry out a comprehensive national military orientation plan and to busy the Armed Forces with military training to keep them away from tension points that would affect them as a result of the tribal conflict.

The sources linked the recent Jordanian-Yemeni contacts with the new trends produced by military incidents and tension. The sources said: The Jordanian assistance in this regard will come within the framework of the vital and important role played by the Jordanian leadership which enjoys the confidence of all parties in the conflict.

Salih Receives Message From UAE President

JN3012143793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has received a message from his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the fraternal United Arab Emirates [UAE]. The message deals with brotherly relations between the two countries, as well as issues of interest to our Arab nation. The message also includes ways of bolstering brotherly cooperation with our country, unifying the word of the brothers, purifying the Arab atmosphere, and restoring Arab solidarity and cooperation.

The message was conveyed by UAE Ambassador in Sanaa Sayf al-Mansuri, who met the brother president today.

Message From Qatari Amir

JN0201203694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the chairman of the Presidential Council, today received brother Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, Qatar's foreign minister, who relayed a message from His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of the brotherly State of Qatar, on the close bilateral relations and issues of shared interest.

During the meeting with Shaykh Hamad, the brother president praised the close relations between the two countries and valued Qatar's efforts in supporting Yemeni unity. He asked him to convey his greetings to his brother Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani and his best wishes for the Qatari people. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah, brother Muhammad 'Ali al- Ansari, Qatar's ambassador to our country, and the Qatari minister's delegation. He has since left Sanaa.

Al-Bid Criticizes Efforts To Undermine Unity

JN2912205093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Dec 93

[Text] The vice chairman of the President Council ['Ali Salim al-Bid] today met in Aden with the members of the General Council of the Organization of Revolution Strugglers and Unity Defenders. The vice chairman appealed to the Yemeni revolution strugglers to continue their struggle in order to safeguard unity and champion democracy with the same revolutionary spirit and patriotism they demonstrated in their championing of the revolution and homeland issues.

The vice chairman urged the brother strugglers to exert continuous efforts and to stand united in order to face the diseases spreading their poisons among the people. He also urged them to resist the acts of violence and terrorism aimed at undermining security and stability and tarnishing Yemen's image. He urged them to double their efforts to make the competent authorities adopt immediate measures to tackle security disorder, arrest the perpetrators of homicides, assassinations, and all forms of political terrorism, and move weapon arsenals out of cities.

Spokesman Denies Saddam Assassination Attempt

JN3112091393 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 31 Dec 93 p 28

[Text] Baghdad—An official Iraqi spokesman has denied a report published by the London TIMES newspaper about an attempt on the life of President Saddam Husayn.

The news is fabrication and wishful thinking and the report is baseless, the spokesman said in a press statement.

'Islamic Resistance' Takes Part of al-Madinah

LD0301162194 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, Jan. 3, IRNA—Islamic resistance forces have taken over a part of al-Madinah city in Iraq, an Iraqi opposition source announced here Sunday [2 January].

The combatants of the Islamic resistance have also closed all roads ending to the city in the suburb of al-Basrah, inflicting heavy losses on Saddam's forces, the mojahedin source said.

The fighting between Islamic resistance forces and Saddam's troops was continuing and flames and smoke could be seen above different parts of the city, the source added.

He concluded that the Islamic resistance forces have also distributed pamphlets inviting people to join the uprising against Saddam's regime.

Further on Fighting Among Kurds in North

Barzani, Talabani Massing Forces

JN3012123393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Reports from Irbil say that six clergymen have been killed or executed by the gang of the agent Jalal Talabani and that many mosques have been severely damaged as a result of artillery shelling of al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil cities, and the Chamchamal, Darbandikhan, Kallar, and Raniyah districts. It is reported that more than 200 casualties fell in Kallar.

Reports earlier said that the security situation was still tense in Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah and that most shops are closed and life paralyzed. Sound of explosions and guns are heard on the outskirts of Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah. All roads connecting towns, districts, and townships have been closed by warring gangs. Hospitals are full of dead and wounded with no medical attention. People do not have the means to obtain food.

Reports from al-Sulamaniyah say that the gang of agent Mas'ud Barzani and the gang of agent Jalal Talabani are massing their saboteurs in and around al-Sulaymaniyah to begin a new round of fighting. This time the two sides will fight directly to heighten the tragedy which they created in the region.

PUK Fighting 'Islamic Movement'

LD3012135293 Tehran IRNA in English 1218 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Paveh, Kermanshah Prov., Dec. 30, IRNA—Sporadic clashes between forces of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Islamic Movement of Iraq's Kurdistan still continues in northern Iraq. PUK forces have called on members of the Islamic Movement to give up and said that they have smashed positions of the Islamic movement.

However, according to sources close to the Islamic movement, they have pushed back Jalal Talabani forces from al-Tuwaylah region. According to the Islamic movement forces under the command of Mullah 'Uthman 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in overnight fightings, at least six PUK members were killed and five others were taken captive. No independent source has yet confirmed the reports.

Meanwhile, mediatory efforts by leader of Iraq's Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) Mas'ud Barzani to patch up differences between the rival groups have failed. The withdrawal of Barzani from the leadership council of Iraq's Kurdistan is a sign of his failure to end the hostilities. Other reports speak of fresh clashes between Talabani and Barzani forces in Irbil region, 20 kms southeast of al-Sulaymaniyah.

In light of the recent clashes, political observers believe that none of the two main rival groups in northern Iraq are able to run an independent Kurdish government.

Correspondent Describes Fighting

JN0101142394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jan (INA)—Reports from the Kurdistan Autonomous Region in northern Iraq say more than 110 persons have been killed in the ongoing battles between the group of agent Jalal al-Talabani, agents of America and Britain, and the group of Khalid 'Uthman Barzani, agents of Iran. Hundreds of civilians have been wounded in this fighting.

In a report published here today, AL-JUMHURIYAH's correspondent in Ninawa quotes these reports and people coming from al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil Governorates as saying that more than 56 people were killed in these battles over the past week. AL-JUMHURIYAH's report adds that the number of those killed over the past week is more than those killed over the past two months, that is, since the beginning of the fighting between the two agent groups.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that the agent groups—which control the Autonomous Region in northern Iraq under the protection of the allied forces and aircraft that take off from southern Anatolia—are hiding the number of civilian casualites. It is believed, the paper adds, that the number of victims is increasing now that the fighting has extended from the military areas, which are under the control of the two groups, to villages and subdistricts in al- Sulaymaniyah and Irbil Governorate.

The reports added that over the past two weeks al-Sulaymaniyah was the target of arbitrary shelling from launchers and mortar guns. The reports said the shelling, which lasted for more than 10 straight days, resulted in the killing and wounding of hundreds of people and the destruction of houses and mosques.

AL-JUMHURIYAH's correspondent noted that Irbil's streets are full of bodies and burned vehicles. He added that shops and markets were looted during the barbaric shelling.

PUK's 'Crimes' Condemned

LD0301102194 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 3, IRNA—Iraq's Islamic Action Organization (IAO) condemned the recent crimes committed by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) forces.

In a statement, the IAO severely condemned the killing and execution of ulema, attack on mosques and burning of the holy quran by PUK forces.

The statement called on the warring sides to stop their fightings and noted that the clashes harm the security and stability of the country and benefits none of the belligerent parties.

According to the statement, the continued clashes are an excuse for the arrogant powers to keep Saddam in power.

Islamic Movement Claims Towns Seized

TA0301125094 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1100 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] It has been reported that the clashes which erupted 10 days ago in northern Iraq between forces affiliated with Jalal Talabani and the pro-Iranian Islamic Movement of Kurdistan are continuing.

In a statement to ANATOLIA agency in London, the Islamic Movement of Kurdistan declared that its forces seized the townships of Balkhah and Ahmad Awah, which occupy a strategic point from a transportation standpoint. The statement denied reports that 'Uthman 'Abd-al-'Aziz, leader of the Islamic Movement of Kurdistan, was captured last week by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan led by Talabani. The statement noted that 'Abd-al-'Aziz is currently conducting talks in Salah-al-Din to stop the clashes with Mas'ud Barzani.

The statement further claimed that in the recent clashes, Talabani's forces were helped by Iranian communist Kurdish organizations and former PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] militants. Charging that the recent elections held in northern Iraq were rigged, the statement said that Barzani and Talabani failed to keep their promises to renew the elections and everyone should learn that Talabani's words cannot be trusted.

Talabani Preparing 'Large-Scale Attack'

JN0301142894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA)—Reports from al-Sulaymaniyah, northeastern Iraq, have said that the Jalal Talabani's clique has assembled a large number of its armed men in Hawraman to launch a large-scale attack on the members of the so-called Islamic Movement of Kurdistan. Earlier, this movement announced that it resumed its armed operations against Jalal Talabani's clique and seized the Ahmad Awah mountains overlooking the al-Sulaymaniyah-Halabjah highway. The Islamic Movement of Kurdistan also announced that the villages of Balkhah, Byara, and Tawilah are now under its control and that it killed 15 people and arrested 25 members of the Jalal Talabani group.

PUK Commentary on Victory Over Islamic Movement

NC2712213293 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Our talk yesterday should have dealt with the phenomenon of extremism and revanchism [al-salafiyah] in Islam, in view of the danger, difficulty, and [word indistinct] that such radicalism poses to the noble Islamic religion. The rapid succession of events prevented this, however. At the same time, my personal closeness to these rapid events during two full nights and two full days in the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's [PUK] operations rooms provided a motive for writing this commentary.

PUK leaders ran the operations with a presence of mind that demonstrated wisdom, experience, and political, military, and psychological competence. The telephone did not stop ringing, and there was an endless flood of volunteer fighters. Everyone in the operations room, particularly the PUK leaders, were emphatically determined that no harm should befall venerable al-Sulaymaniyah and its dear citizens, especially the women and children.

The sight of veteran peshmergas, those who fought in the difficult battles of the past, streaming to the place with their weapons in hand was unforgettable. I even saw among them a group of elderly men and others in suits and ties who came late at night to take up arms.

Women, children, and innocent men were killed or wounded when the terrorists turned their mortar fire, katyushas, and Grads against peaceable homes. Doctors and nurses hurried to help the wounded at all hours of the night and day, spurred on by their professional sense of duty and patriotic and humanitarian sentiments. Their honorable and humanitarian action is difficult to forget.

This is only a small part of what I saw.

On the subjects of war and politics, we declare: What happened was not a war between the PUK and the Muslims. Before the matter was settled decisively, as we have seen, the PUK made strenuous efforts on all levels to resolve the issue peacefully.

Political parties in the Kurdish liberation movement made valuable efforts to salvage the situation and safeguard the citizens' lives. However, the extremist, terrorist, radical movement sought a war of extermination. We can see now how the consequence was the end of the terrorists' extremism. We have seen how citizens, normally uninvolved in politics, participated in deciding the issue for the good of Kurdistan and its people, not merely for the good of the PUK.

Yes, it has been a national victory. We have driven off the specter of fear and danger that threatened our country and our people. Nevertheless, the PUK must continue to be wary of falling victim to vanity. In the future, the PUK must be even more humble than it is now. It must conduct its transactions with other parties in a humble manner, with the wisdom of the victor and the knowledge of one conversant with all things.

Yes, the momentous event has demonstrated the Kurdish people's support for the PUK and how the veteran peshmergas and veteran PUK members backed their triumphant party, just as they have always supported it during good and bad times.

At this point, we want to comment on an astounding feature: Thousands of Grad missiles were found in the extremists' warehouses. Even the united army of Kurdistan does not possess such missiles. The kinds of weapons that are only used in sophisticated battles were also found. Hallowed houses of worship were used as trenches.

It was a wise and splendid thing that dear al-Sulaymaniyah and other cities of Kurdistan were protected from devastation.

To enable our nation to live in security and peace and to build up Kurdistan, let us all rise to the level of events and future contingencies. Let us reinforce our fraternity and mutual trust. Let all the parties of Kurdistan focus their efforts on bringing happiness to the people and defend them against terrorism.

Turkish Paper on Islamic Movement in Kurdistan

NC0101195994 Istanbul SABAH in Turkish 25 Dec 93 p 23

[Column by Hasan Cemal: "As the Hizballah in Iraq Appears on the Scene"]

[Excerpt] An Islamic organization has surfaced in northern Iraq to carry out armed activities in that part of the country. It has identified itself as the Islamic Movement in Kurdistan [Kurdistan Islamci Hareketi, IMK]...

The IMK militants attacked the supporters of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, which is headed by Jalal Talabani. The attacks took place last Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday. The militants also clashed with the supporters of Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan. The incidents were in Raniyah, Kifri, and Kujah...

The Hizballah in Iraq has established itself in Kuldazah and Raniyah, which are close to Iran's border. That organization is not represented in the Federal Assembly of Kurdistan, which is based in Irbil, because it only secured 5.1 percent of the votes in the elections in 1992. Seven percent of the vote was needed for representatin.

Iran's Support

The Hizballah organization in Iraq is mainly supported by Tehran... It has received aid from Iran in the form of cash, arms, and provisions, particularly since 1991. That is common knowledge. According to Ahmad Bamarni, who is a close associate of Jalal Talabani, the Hizballah organization is also supported by Saudi Arabia and even by Afghanistan... That organization's ideology is based on Imam Khomeyni's teachings. Naturally, that provides for Tehran's support... Nevertheless, the Hizballah members have not renounced their religious sect. They are the followers of the Sunni sect. Of course, that accounts for Saudi Arabia's support.

The recent weakening of the economy in northern Iraq has had a significant bearing on the strengthening of the Hizballah organization. The gradual worsening of poverty has disappointed the people in the region. Consequently, that state of affairs has nourished Islamic radicalism, as has been the case among the Palestinian people and in Algeria. Obviously, Islamic radicalism has strengthened as a result of poverty and the central administration's failures.

Beards and Islamic Dress

We met Ahmad Bamarni a few days ago. Referring to the Hizballah organization, he said: "We have a university in Irbil. It provides education for 5,000 students. We have colleges for agricultural and medical studies in Dahuk. We also have an institute for veterinary studies and a medical college in al-Sulaymaniyah... Students from many families do not attend them because they are poor. However, the IMK gives them an opportunity to study, provided that the male students wear a beard and female students wear Islamic dress. In fact, the number of young people who join this organization is gradually increasing."

Yes, the Hizballah organization employs several tactics to strengthen itself. Meanwhile, it also helps many people to have their own shops or establish their own businesses. I have observed the poverty in northern Iraq. In view of that, I am aware of what can be achieved even through small amounts of material aid.

What Does Tehran Fear?

What does Tehran, which supports the Hizballah organization, wish to achieve in northern Iraq? Bamerni replied as follows:

The Hizballah organization is playing Iran's game. Tehran wishes to create instability in northern Iraq. Iran's military aircraft repeatedly bombed the northern Iraq border area some time ago. That country closed its border about three weeks ago. It closed down the border gates that give access to al-Sulaymaniyah, Hajj 'Umran, and Irbil... What worries Tehran is this: A democratic, pluralistic, and secular system is being established in northern Iraq for the first time. Political parties exists in Irbil and other large cities. There are newspapers, magazines, and radio networks. The people are expressing their opinion. The people also appear on television. The modernization process has made Tehran feel very uneasy. Iran's officials fear that the Kurds in Iran and the rest of Iraq may decide to adopt a similar model. They believe that that would be an unfavorable example for their country. [passage omitted]

Paper Warns on 'Foreign Schemes' in Kurdistan

JN3012102693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has warned against foreign schemes to destroy Iraq's Kurdistan.

In an editorial entitled "The Truth Will Prevail," AL-'IRAQ today says this terrible scheme was assigned to agents of the foreigner after they abandoned all nationalistic feelings and mortgaged their will to serve the enemies of Iraq and its unity and stability.

The paper adds: Observers are raising big questions about the objectives behind the various recent security breaches in Kurdistan and the role of the foreign hands that move the agents to sabotage security and stability and push the region to a phase of escalating fighting that will substantially harm the basic interests of the Iraqi Kurds.

The paper expects eliminations and countereliminations among the so-called parties to grow into a more serious phase that will threaten the lives of citizens in Kurdistan. The destructive consequences of this phase, the paper says, may affect the entire situation there.

The paper notes the suffering of the citizens of Iraqi Kurdistan as a result of the fighting among the agents which is reaching villages, towns, and districts in Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah.

The paper notes a sharp and clear contrast between the state of tranquillity, stability, and security that prevailed in Kurdistan under the 17-30 July Revolution and the free, dignified life it had under the canopy of the homeland on the one hand, and the current dark and tragic state after the agent cliques took control, on the other.

The paper concludes its article by saying that this fact exposes the allegations and phony slogans that were raised to serve as pretexts.

Official on Activities of 'Agent Groups'

JN3012152493 Baghdad INA in English 1410 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 30 (INA)—Secretary-General of the Works and Housing Administration in the Iraqi Kurdistan Autonomy Region Ghandi Muhammad Daza'i has asserted that the agent groups there have stolen during the past two years all engineering equipment and machines and vehicles of the state and smuggled them to neighbouring countries and deposited their prices at foreign banks.

He has made it clear that these thefts led to sabotaging all roads and bridges of the area because of the lack of maintenance and the region changed into a scene of only the phenomena of sabotage, ruin and destruction.

He made it clear that the Kurdish citizen was now holding comparison between the state of construction the region had been seeing for twenty years under the July 17 revolution and the state of devastation and destruction to which the region had been exposed in two years at the hands of the agents and mercenaries.

Secretary-General of Works and Housing in the Autonomy Region called on the citizens there to shoulder their responsibility and to stand up to the agent groups that were trying to destroy the Iraqi Kurds gains.

Official Expects Struggle Against 'Agents'

JN0301133994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] The National Progressive and Patriotic Front [NPPF] has held a meeting under its secretary general, comrade 'Abd-al- Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, in the presence of the NPPF's party representatives.

During the meeting, comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur stressed that leader President Saddam Husayn's historic message in which he congratulated the great people of Iraq on the new year carries great meanings and bodes well for a happy, prosperous new year.

He noted that the killing and sabotage committed by the agent cliques in the Autonomous Region proves that these cliques are protected by their colonialist and Zionist masters.

He affirmed that our Kurdish people, who take pride in the historic leader struggler, President Saddam Husayn, will step up their struggle against these agent cliques.

During the meeting, the participants discussed a plan for the NPPF's General Secretariat for 1994 on the Arab and world levels, as well as political issues.

Kurdistan's Legislative Council Holds Meeting

JN3012162893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] The Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region has held its fourth and final meeting of this year's fall session. Speaker Baha'-al-Din Ahmad delivered a speech at the meeting in which he congratulated leader President Saddam Husayn and Iraq's people on the new year. He pledged to his excellency the president in the name of the members of the council to remain loyal soldiers to defend Iraq's sovereignty and its national unity. He also denounced the brutal crimes being committed by the cliques of agentry and destruction against our Kurdish people in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region in implementation of the colonialist and Zionist schemes.

During the meeting, three reports prepared by the general secretariats for economic, financial, awqaf, public works, and housing affairs were read out. The reports reviewed the achievements made by the sons of our Kurdish people in various areas up to 1990, including trade, religious, housing, and construction areas, in implementation of a decision by the leadership of the party and the revolution under leader Saddam Husayn to develop the Autonomous Region. In their reports endorsed by the council, the secretaries general dealt with the repercussions of the destruction carried out by the saboteurs against state institutions, as well as the stealing state of property. The meeting was attended by Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, chairman of the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region.

Oil Ministry Source Ridicules Kuwaiti Claims

JN3012211293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA)—A responsible source at the Oil Ministry has ridiculed statements and allegations by the so-called oil minister in the Kuwaiti region, 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli, blaming Iraq for the current drop in the oil prices because it has been sending signals of its imminent return to the market.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the source said that these statements represent a desperate attempt to cover up the large-scale conspiracy being carried out by the U.S.-led colonialist forces through their agents in the region, including the rulers imposed on the Kuwaiti region, to plunder oil wealth.

The source added that the current collapse in the world oil market and the drop in oil prices to levels unprecedented for years are due to the overproduction of oil by the Kuwaiti region and Saudi Arabia, which are pumping more than 10 billion barrels per day in order to flood the market, lower prices, and deprive their peoples and those of the developing countries of their only source of income.

He asserted that what is going on in the market is a conspiracy being carried out by the rulers imposed on the Kuwaiti region and Saudi Arabia at the orders of their American masters to reduce oil prices and create obstacles to Iraq's return to the market. He said that these rulers are increasing their production of oil and dropping oil prices to delay Iraq's resumption of its legitimate role in exporting oil.

The source said that Iraq's resumption of its natural right to export its oil will only have a positive repercussions on prices, and that the states which have shared Iraq's quota should reduce their production to allow the absorption of the quantities to be exported by Iraq.

Concluding, the Oil Ministry source said: The return of Iraq, which believes in OPEC's principles and in the protection of the interests of its member states, will have positive repercussions that will serve its people's interests.

Rabin on 'Arafat's 'Retreat,' Syrian Contacts

TA0101104994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Shlomo Raz and Rafi Rosenfeld on 31 December; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Raz] Mr. Rabin, there seems to be a crisis, a stalemate, or a delay—I wonder what word you would use—in the talks today, the day of our interview with you. A fax was received from Nabil Sha'th, in which the PLO was practically backing out of some of the agreements achieved in Cairo—at least agreements on the issue of the crossings on the Jordan bridges.

[Rabin] True, we are faced with a problem, but things should be put in the right perspective. Both sides, the Israeli and the Palestinian—the PLO—are committed to the Declaration of Principles [DOP] agreement, to the negotiations, to the implementation of the first stage of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. And there are disagreements. Following the Paris and Oslo meetings, the nucleus of the Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee met in Cairo, with the Israeli side headed by Foreign Minister Peres and the other side by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh in Paris and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] in Cairo. We received the impression that they had arrived at a draft reflecting the agreements on some of the main disputed issues. The agreement was naturally contingent on the endorsement of both Tunis and Jerusalem.

It transpired, however, that so far Tunis has not endorsed the draft. For that reason, there has been no endorsement from Jerusalem, because it is inconceivable that we should agree to approve something Tunis has not approved. Had we done it, the draft which required reciprocal endorsement would have become a unilaterally endorsed draft, and that would have made it the starting point of negotiations, triggering new compromises beyond anything the two sides had agreed on.

Two faxes have been received. One was from Nabil Sha'th, written after the meeting with President Mubarak in Cairo, after Nabil Sha'th and Major General Amnon Shahaq were tasked with elucidating several points in the draft. Shahaq and Sha'th had a conversation, but due to time constraints, they agreed that a fax reflecting the agreements would be sent. Another fax from Nabil Sha'th which arrived yesterday contained far-reaching remarks by the chairman and, although they were defined as remarks, they practically overturned the contents of the first fax.

In these circumstances, I would like to spell out my stand. We are committed to the DOP. We are ready to negotiate the interpretations of whatever is written in the DOP agreement. I absolutely refuse, however, to make additional compromises on the agreements achieved in the DOP agreement. Interpretation—yes, another compromise—no.

[Raz] And does that interpretation of 'Arafat—the chairman, as you referred to him—reflect a retreat from every previous agreement on the issues of Gaza, the scope of withdrawal from Jericho, the bridges, and the crossings?

[Rabin] They are remarks implying a retreat. They are not presented as demands, but the implications of the second fax are clear to me. Therefore, although we would like to continue the negotiations, we would like to ponder the matter and to elucidate a few things at the beginning of next week, before the negotiations are resumed, in order to avoid departing from a new starting line each time, because we believe that the agreements should bind both sides. [passage omitted]

[Rosenfeld] Recently there have been reports about Israelis and Syrians participating in a workshop in Washington. Do you have any information about this track of talks? Does it operate with your knowledge, your sanction, your consent?

[Rabin] Neither I nor the Government of Israel have authorized anyone to conduct negotiations with the Syrians. We were very interested in holding quiet contacts with the Syrians, because the experience of the Dayan-al-Tuhami meeting in Morocco had proved that this kind of meetings can pave the way. Oslo has proved the same. We wanted very much to hold such meetings, but the Syrians refused. Therefore, I do not know what the newspaper reports were based on. Israelis may have met with Syrians on occasion, but not one of these Israelis had been authorized by either me or the Government of Israel to speak on our behalf. [passage omitted]

Rabin Comments on Negotiations, 'Understandings'

'Palestinians Should Start Sweating Now'

TA0201104894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres decided to resume the economic talks between Israel and the PLO in Paris this week. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that a Finance Ministry team will depart for Paris tomorrow. It is possible that the heads of the delegations, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and the PLO's Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], will arrive in Paris toward the end of the week.

At the opening of today's cabinet meeting Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin spoke with great firmness against the way in which the Palestinians are conducting the negotiations. The prime minister said he is willing to resume the Taba talks only on the basis of the understandings reached in Cairo. Mr. Rabin said that Israel is in no hurry, and that the Palestinians should start sweating now. According to Rabin, over the last few days it has transpired that we cannot count on oral understandings with the PLO leaders, and henceforth he will demand that all the understandings reached with them be written down.

Earlier today Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres held an hour-long private meeting. The prime minister also held consultations with various security services elements, and this afternoon these consultations will continue.

'Understandings' Must Be Starting Point

TA0201141194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Israel will today issue an unequivocal announcement to the PLO in Tunis that the Taba talks will resume only on the understanding that the negotiations' starting point are the understandings already reached in Cairo. Israel insists that neither of the parties raise any demands that contravene these understandings.

Speaking at the end of today's cabinet session, the prime minister said that the draft formulated in Cairo was not an Israeli position paper, but rather understandings reached at the most senior level between Israel and the PLO. It is inconceivable, Yitzhaq Rabin said, not to honor understandings reached at such a level and to then start haggling about them. This kind of situation, Rabin said, raised doubts about whether there was any point at all in reaching such understandings. If the Palestinians reject the understandings, Rabin said, everything is open.

Rabin Details 'Arafat's Demands

TA0201123094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Report by Hayim Hecht]

[Excerpt] The cabinet meeting, which has just ended, centered on sharp and firm remarks by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. It is not at all clear that the Taba talks will resume tomorrow, but it is clear that an Israeli team will depart for Paris tomorrow. Yitzhaq Rabin said that before clarifications are received on what and with whom we are negotiating, we will not resume any talks. He added Israel can resume routine economic and security related contacts; for example, it is possible to continue talks on fugitives. Rabin pointed out, however, that we will not return to Taba before it is clear on what basis the talks will be held. Rabin left some room open for a low-level delegation going to Taba for dealing with the problem of the fugitives. The heads of the delegations, however, will not go.

Rabin said he has received the impression that the territories do not interest 'Arafat and that he is using this fact against us. Rabin stressed that the controversy centers on the political issue rather than on 'Arafat's honor. Rabin added that from 'Arafat's point of view the main problem is whether he has control over an international border or not.

At this point Rabin provided some details regarding 'Arafat's new demands as conveyed via the weekend fax messages: They are demanding the presence of policemen near the bridges, which in fact implies a physical PLO control over the border crossings. The Palestinians also demand not to see any Israelis at the crossing points. The solution they propose is the use of cameras. They are also demanding to receive total control over al-Nabi Musa in the Jericho area. The Palestinians also demand full control over the Muratas baptism site on the Jordan River. They also demand control over the Lido beach on the Dead Sea and to maintain an international presence in the enclaves.

There seems to be a problem regarding the Musa 'Alami agricultural farm, because some of the land registered to that farm is located east of the Jordan Valley, therefore Israel's proposal to hand over this farm to the PLO is problematical.

Minister Shim'on Shetrit asked Rabin for clarifications regarding Israel's security areas in Gaza and Jericho. Rabin said that Israel demands to retain between three to five kilometers between the Jericho enclave and the Jordan Valley. In Gaza, Israel is demanding less than that.

Minister Ya'aqov Tzur said that apparently the maneuvering room is narrowing down:

[Begin recording] The PLO must drop its demand for control over the external borders. This is not merely a tactical issue. It is a most significant issue and the government will see to it that its principles are implemented. Israel will not compromise over retaining control of the external borders and will not accept 'Arafat's demands, which in fact amount to the essence of a state. If the PLO returns to the spirit of the declaration of principles the way will remain open. We know that we are paying a price for the delay, but we reached point where we must insist on the implementation of the agreement we reached. [end recording]

I asked Minister Yosi Sarid whether the Taba talks will resume tomorrow:

[Begin recording] This is entirely unclear. If the talks will be based on the understandings reached in Cairo, we will be able to resume the talks tomorrow or even tonight. If, however, the basis will be Yasir 'Arafat's new demands then at this point there is no room for continuing the talks. At this point I do not know when they will continue. [end recording]

Prime Minister Rabin also said that if the Palestinians will change the agreements this will be reciprocal, and Israel will also demand to introduce changes. [passage omitted]

Rabin, Peres Reject Taba Talks for 'Time Being'

TA0301165694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today decided not to resume the

Taba talks for the time being due to the PLO's positions. Nabil Sha'th phoned Shim'on Peres several times today, and the two are slated to hold another phone conversation in the next few hours. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports:

Jerusalem sources are saying that conditions are not yet ripe for resuming the Taba talks. What does this mean? In a fax sent by Nabil Sha'th, the PLO demands that the Taba talks will revisit all the issues previously negotiated in Oslo, Versailles, and Cairo. Israel, on the other hand, maintains that the document formulated during the Liaison Committee's session in Cairo is a binding summation of all three meetings. Israel contends that in Cairo the delegations managed to overcome the controversies which were not solved in Oslo and Versailles. Officials in Jerusalem today learned that not only is 'Arafat unwilling to approve the document formulated by Peres and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], but that the PLO wants to renegotiate the gaps which have apparently been bridged in Cairo.

Following their private meeting this morning, Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres stated that Israel considers it impossible to resume the Taba talks for the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First plan.

Despite the present stalemate, various sources—some of them close to the PLO leadership—assess that by next week conditions will ripen and that Foreign Minister Peres will find the right formulations to clear the way for resuming the Taba talks.

Israel Sends Reply to Tunis

TA0201184194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Political correspondent Gadi Sukenik report]

[Excerpts] Israel is not prepared to resume the political talks with the PLO under the conditions created by 'Arafat. A letter to this effect signed by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was faxed this evening to the PLO leaders.

The prime minister stated today: I have time, let the guys in Tunis start sweating a little now. In the meantime, cabinet ministers have begun floating new ideas. For example, in an internal session today, Minister Moshe Shahal said he believes we should halt the deliberations about an interim arrangement and proceed directly to discuss the permanent arrangement in the territories. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports:

[Begin recording] [Sukenik] [passage omitted] Israel today sent its reply to the heads of the Palestinian delegation in Cairo and Tunis by fax, as the Palestinians did. The principle stated in the Israeli message: Changes in the understandings may be discussed, but not ignored. In other words, 'Arafat should get off his high horse. [passage omitted]

Rabin and Peres today told cabinet ministers they decided to resume the economic talks with the PLO in Paris at once. They conveyed their impression that 'Arafat is not bothered by the situation in the territories. At the same time, they reiterated that the PLO's standing in the territories has been deteriorating and that the money promised to it has not been coming through.

The new situation is leading to new ideas. In an internal session today—and only in such a forum at this point—Minister Moshe Shahal said: We should drop the deliberations about the interim arrangement and proceed directly to a discussion about the permanent arrangement in the territories. [end recording]

Peres Confirms Taba Talks Not To Resume 3 Jan

TA0201190094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Peres says unfortunately Israel will not be going back to the Taba talks tomorrow. Reporter Amy Rhodes asked Peres for his reaction to the Jordanian press report that King Husayn had threatened to make a separate peace with Israel unless Yasir 'Arafat cooperated with him more closely.

[Begin recording] [Peres] I am for having a comprehensive peace with all parties, but I am for arriving at the comprehensive peace on an individual basis, because if we shall try to have comprehensive negotiations, so the ones who are usually late, or reluctant, or hesitant will hold back the negotiations.

[Rhodes] Will the Taba talks resume tomorrow?

[Peres] I am afraid not.

[Rhodes] What is the reason that it will be delayed?

[Peres] The talks in Taba need a common basis, need an understanding. The two faxes that we have received on Friday created a sort of a doubt about what is the basis for the talks in Taba.

[Rhodes] How do you plan on going about reaching another agreement such as the one that was reached in Cairo but not accepted by the Palestinians?

[Peres] To be true to the agreements that we have reached in Oslo and in Cairo and to reject anything that tries to annul it. [end recording]

Peres: PLO Rebuttal Part of 'Process'

TA3012192293 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem on 30 December—recorded]

[Text] [Rosen] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, senior PLO officials, Yasir 'Arafat, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh are claiming that an agreement was never reached at all. What is going on here?

[Peres] I must note that the two men you mentioned did not participate in the negotiations. However, Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], who was appointed head of the delegation by Yasir 'Arafat, appeared publicly with me to declare that both delegations had reached agreement.

[Rosen] When you arrived back in Israel last night, were you convinced that an agreement with the PLO had been reached? Were you surprised by the reactions and by what happened today?

[Peres] Not completely. The agreement is between the two delegations. I knew it had to be approved by the PLO leadership. I realized that there could be dissenting views within the PLO leadership so I was not totally surprised.

[Rosen] Did the statements made in Cairo yesterday, and the remarks made by Abu-Mazin lead you to understand that the PLO team was satisfied with the budding agreement?

[Peres] I believe the delegation felt, just as we did, that we had met each other half way after starting off from very disparate positions. I imagine that they felt that this was the most they could attain. I must say that most of the delegation, including Abu-Mazin, understand that we cannot stray far from the Declaration of Principles. It is impossible to constantly renew negotiations over the negotiations. Therefore, my assessment is that despite the various statements that have been made, the situation has not changed in any fundamental way.

[Rosen] What is the state of things now? What are we actually waiting for?

[Peres] The current situation is that the Taba committee can resume its work, and we are waiting for an official and formal notice from the PLO leadership regarding the joint communique reached yesterday.

[Rosen] You usually avoid using the term crisis. But have we not actually reached a crisis with the PLO? The PLO is not sticking to the agreements.

[Peres] Look, that is the partner we have. The PLO is the only partner we have to negotiate with, and we shall continue to do this. This is the kind of thing that is neither final, nor a total crisis. This is part of the negotiations process.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 30 December reports that "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is waiting for an official statement from the PLO regarding the Cairo draft agreement before making any public reaction. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that Jerusalem is displeased with reports that Yasir 'Arafat has rejected the draft." Israel Television goes on to note that "Egyptian officials told our correspondent this evening that President Mubarak was disappointed with 'Arafat's attitude and has therefore decided to reduce the level of Egyptian involvement in mediation efforts between the PLO and Israel. Mubarak has therefore decided not to send Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to Israel for talks on this matter."]

Peres: No Retreat on Document of Principles

TA0101203194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik in the Tel Aviv studio "a few minutes ago"]

[Excerpts] [Sukenik] Over the weekend, after phone calls between 'Arafat's and Peres' offices, the PLO issued something between an amendment and an apology. Sa'id Kamal, the PLO's ambassador in Cairo, confirmed what Peres said to the effect that the understandings reached in Cairo were not just Israel's position, as the Palestinian side—particularly Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh—tried to argue. Nevertheless, the PLO stressed, these were not understandings between the two leaderships. Whatever the case may be, there is a crisis in the talks with the PLO and everything would seem to have been reopened. Yasir 'Arafat, a tough negotiator, now rejects the understandings reached in Cairo and demands much more. [passage omitted]

Over the weekend, Yitzhaq Rabin went to great lengths not to overturn the tables, and emphasized that he is patient. He and Shim'on Peres must now make up their minds either to go back to the Taba talks or to illustrate their disappointment with 'Arafat by initiating a delay in the resumption of the talks.

A few minutes ago the foreign minister told us that the decision would be made tomorrow and that he is in favor, in spite of everything, of resuming the talks.

[Begin recording] [Peres] The crisis is over who has more time. We presented proposals. Everything that is written in the declaration of principles is acceptable to us. We have not changed anything or retreated from it, and we will not change or retreat from it. If the PLO has time, that is all right; we also have time.

[Sukenik] Could you speculate as to what goes on in 'Arafat's mind when he rejects all the understandings his men reached with you only a few days ago?

[Peres] He does not reject all of them, but he adds demands which were not discussed either in the first or second set of Oslo talks, in Cairo, or Versailles. We announced the understandings, and they were rejected. 'Arafat should know that Israel will not retreat from three issues: the Declaration of Principles, our security needs, and our announcement in the Knesset; we will fully honor what the prime minister and I stated in the

Knesset. In this context, we tried to be as considerate as possible of Palestinian feelings. We do not want to humiliate them, but we will stick to our principles. We will implement everything we promised, but we will not agree to anything that harms our security. [end recording]

Peres Considers Impasse 'Arafat's 'Problems'

TA0201072994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Karmit Gay and political correspondent Shlomo Raz—live]

[Text] [Gay] Good morning, Mr. Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Gay] Is Israel really sick and tired of 'Arafat's antics? Has he really put us back to square one?

[Peres] We are not sick and tired of anything. We offered the Palestinians a proposal which they accepted. Now they do not want to implement it, so let them wait.

[Gay] What transpired between Cairo and Tunis?

[Peres] In my opinion nothing transpired. The two delegations worked out a document of understanding which was publicized when Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and I made a joint television statement. Now the PLO leadership must decide whether they accept it or reject it. If they decide to reject it so be it.

[Gay] Is there a communication breakdown between 'Arafat and Abu-Mazin?

[Peres] I do not want to deal with their own internal problems. The Palestinian delegation to Cairo was sent on behalf of the PLO, not Israel. I do not understand Yasir 'Arafat's claims. First, he demands that Israel fulfill everything it has promised. I want him to cite even one example of an issue which we have not fulfilled to the letter. Two, I do not understand the example he makes of the term Bantustan, because here everything remains open and within a short period we will have to discuss the future of the autonomy. I also explained to the Palestinians that they are not arguing over territory, but rather over time. 'Arafat is comparing the [Jericho] enclave to an Indian enclave. This is nonsense, because here everybody will be free to travel. They will also be given a police force which they have never had; they are also being given a Palestinian track inside the Israeli border terminal. I do not understand what he is talking about. We have seen several times in history, however, that the Palestinians have rejected opportunities. I hope they will not repeat the same mistake.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, do you think the Taba talks should be resumed despite the fairly bleak description of the situation with the PLO which you just offered?

[Peres] I did not paint a bleak picture. I think the current debate is within the PLO itself rather than with us. The debate with us has ended.

[Raz] Do you think it is advisable to resume the Taba talks already this week?

[Peres] We are not playing the offended party. The talks can resume this week or next week on the basis of the understandings reached. It is impossible to resume the talks based on that which runs contrary to the understandings.

[Gay] You are saying that everything is now an internal PLO problem. Yo'el Singer, one of the Oslo agreement formulators, said that time is acting against all parties, because a delay could endanger the agreement and bring about the dissolution of the PLO. We will then find ourselves confronting dozens of small organizations unable to communicate with us.

[Peres] I, indeed, believe the delay is a negative and unwarranted thing, but we are not responsible for it and we should not be held accountable for it. I want to state unequivocally that all the commitments we have undertaken—to our Knesset as well—we will fulfill to the letter. Regarding the Jericho enclave, for example, the Palestinians wanted access to the Dead Sea and to the Jordan River. We explained to them that we told the Knesset there will not be even one Jewish settlement in the Jericho enclave. Those who want access to the Dead Sea actually want to have Jewish settlements in the Jericho enclave. We told them that at the present stage of the negotiations we will not accept this. We also told them that Israel's defense line goes all the way to 'Ayn Fashkhah. It cannot be broken and we have no intentions of breaking it. We were consequently surprised by seeing this issue raised again. If 'Arafat compares the Jericho enclave to an Indian enclave, then Israel is certainly unwilling to turn the crossing terminal into an entrance to the Wild West. You must remember that all those crossing the border are not only entering the autonomy, but Israel as well. Once inside they can travel anywhere they want to. Our positions, therefore, are not capricious or arbitrary, but are rather to the point. This is also why the Palestinians accepted them.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, are you not concerned by this pattern, wherein we reach some agreement and then return to square one because 'Arafat does not approve it. We saw Abu-Mazin stand by your side and nod his head in agreement when you spoke about the Cairo understandings.

[Peres] Yes, this is why I said it is 'Arafat's problem, not ours. 'Arafat is entitled to reject it if he believes it does not serve the Palestinians' interests. Yet he must also question what his alternatives are.

[Gay] He is nevertheless our partner.

[Peres] Yes, he is our partner. If we cannot understand what drives 'Arafat, he at least must understand what guides us. We are guided by total commitment to every word we spoke and to Israel's security needs.

[Raz] How can you be sure that after an agreement will be concluded and finalized they will not backtrack again?

[Peres] The Palestinians should answer this question, not us. Israel is not divesting itself of anything. If there is no agreement we will keep everything we currently possess.

[Gay] Are we participating in an oriental bazaar here?

[Peres] I do not want to use any descriptions which deviate from the negotiations. I am conducting negotiations and I want to preserve the honor of the other party. Your description, however, is not far from the truth. We all find it painful to sit down, negotiate, agree, and then to have to say that no agreement has been reached. This is the strangest thing I have seen. Nabil Sha'th has sent us a draft with some stylistic amendments to the agreement. Now does this indicate that an agreement has been attained, or not?

[Gay] Does this point to what we can expect in future? We might sign an agreement and then after we withdraw from the enclave they will retract and we will find ourselves in square one.

[Peres] It takes two sides to reach an agreement, whereas nonagreement is an option of any of the two sides. If they do not adhere to the agreement there will be no agreement. The agreement exists as long as the two sides honor it. If one side tries to violate it there will be no agreement. This reciprocity must be preserved all along the way.

[Gay] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Peres.

Peres on Talks With PLO, Syrian Involvement

LD0201095594 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 0805 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by unidentified correspondent; Peres speaking in English fading into Hungarian translation; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] A definitive settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict cannot be expected by tomorrow; but it can now be expected. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, with whom I recorded a brief interview, is himself visibly confident.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr. Peres, do you think that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will be able to prevent the agreement?

[Peres] They might try to prevent the agreement coming into being but I do not think they will succeed. The majority of Palestinians, just as the majority of Israelis, too, want peace. Consequently, the decision is not in Hamas' hands. They murder people and they would like to annihilate the peace process itself by murdering people, but I do not think they will get far with this.

[Correspondent] How do you see the future of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement after the postponement of the first deadline for the Israeli military withdrawal?

[Peres] It was not a postponement. You know, the parties concerned agreed in Oslo that they would allow one month after the signing for informal meetings; they allowed another two months for the agreement to be translated, so that every tiny detail could be clarified. But it turned out that the time at our disposal was extremely short. We are unable to settle all necessary matters in two months. Now we have to clarify just how much time we still need.

[Correspondent] Finally, how do you see the possibility of Syria's involvement?

[Peres] Well, we would like the Syrians to be involved in the settlement efforts, since we would like to put a full-stop to the old conflicts in the region and we would like to build a new Middle East for the future. Naturally, we need new partners for this, partners with whom we can work together. At present, Syria is not showing too much flexibility [hajlekonysag]. But it is also a fact that at the time of the latest visit by U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad indicated with certain gestures that Syria does not wish to be left out of the negotiations.

Peres Says No Withdrawal on Security

TA0301164094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today that Israel would not withdraw from its security positions and would honor its commitment not to uproot Jewish settlements within the framework of the interim arrangement. Tamar Asalem reports from the Knesset:

Israel will honor the agreements reached in Cairo in the spirit of the Declaration of Principles, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said upon leaving the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The committee was interrupted twice because of telephone calls from 'Arafat's political adviser Nabil Sha'th.

[Begin Peres recording] Mr. Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and I informed everybody about the agreements we reached in Cairo. We stand by them. A person's word has to be honored. A debate is legitimate until agreement is reached. After that, agreements must be honored. [end recording]

[Later in the newsreel, Mr. Peres, after talking with Sha'th, said "'the conditions are not yet ripe for renewing the Taba talks.' The two exchanged several more faxes, but the dispute between the two sides has not yet been resolved. Peres told the Knesset committee that Israel is demanding from the PLO that there be no deviations from the Cairo agreements in future negotiations."]

On the security of the settlements and the border crossings, the foreign minister explained that there is no room for compromise.

[Begin Peres recording] We are not asking for new agreements. We are trying to understand how the Palestinians feel, yet we insist on Israel's security. [end recording]

Responding to a question on Kibbutz Netzarim, Mr. Peres said there might be a need to revise security costs for the isolated settlement. He said Netzarim would not constitute part of the negotiations with the Palestinians, but would be brought up in an internal debate. We might have to ask ourselves about resources and the size of the settlement, but I would not like such a debate to be held in the shadow of the negotiations, Peres added.

The foreign minister also referred to the upcoming Clinton-al-Asad summit and said that despite the high expectations in the United States, his expectations were sober. Severing links between Syria and the terrorist organizations would be a central issue in the negotiations with them, Peres said.

'Senior' Official on Possible Accord Failure

zNC0101185094 Paris AFP in English 1823 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Beirut, Jan 1 (AFP)—A delay in reaching agreement on autonomy in the occupied territories could signal the demise of the Israeli-Palestinian accord and the collapse of the PLO, a senior Israeli official warned Saturday [1 January].

In an interview with the Arabic-language daily AL-HAYAH, published in London, Beirut and other Arab capitals, Yoel Zinger, said: "We must expect a delay of a few weeks or months, but this situation must not drag out further since the agreement risks meeting the same fate as that of Camp David."

Zinger is the Israeli foreign ministry's legal advisor who helped formulate the declaration of principles for progressive Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories signed September 13 in Washington.

Subsidiary clauses of the 1978 Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt calling for proposed autonomy in the occupied territories have remained a dead letter.

Zinger added: "A further delay in implementation (of the autonomy accord) could lead to the collapse of the PLO."

He said Israel had wanted to negotiate a peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization because the organization was in danger of disappearing.

"We figured it was in nobody's interest for it to disappear and for Israel to remain alone facing several organizations, none of which is able to speak in the name of all the Palestinian people and to impose itself on them," he added.

Israel and the PLO have still not reached agreement on control of international crossing points on the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank town of Jericho, the first regions earmarked for autonomy, a senior PLO official said Friday.

The disagreement has delayed the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza and Jericho, which had been scheduled for December 13 under the terms of the autonomy accord.

Palestinian negotiators have proposed to their Israeli counterparts the resumption Monday in Egypt of talks on implementation of the accord, the PLO's representative in Egypt said Friday.

Sayid Kamal told AFP the PLO was waiting for Israel's reply on resuming the negotiations, which began October 13 in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Tabah.

Poll Shows 60 Percent Favor Promotion of Talks

TA0201160794 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Text] A large majority of the Israeli public supports the promotion of talks with the Palestinians, and only a minority is in favor of stopping or freezing the talks at once. These are the findings of an public opinion poll commissioned by Labor for private consumption. According to the poll, 60 percent of the public supports the promotion of the talks and, in part, demands that it be advanced rapidly while making compromises. Only 17 percent favor terminating the talks and 13 percent say they should be frozen. These are the findings of a poll conducted over a representative sample of the Jewish population during the last week of 1993.

The poll also shows that the public mainly demands that the government see to it that terror stops, but does not oppose making compromises. The option of a peace agreement and the establishment of a Palestinian state with agreed-on borders won a majority of 47 percent of those surveyed, while 27 percent strongly oppose it, and 13 percent are still hesitant about it. Only 33 percent oppose the abandoning of Judaea and Samaria settlements in return for peace with the Palestinians, while nearly 40 percent are willing to support this.

According to the poll, conducted between 27 and 30 December, a majority of the public supports the Oslo and Washington agreements with the PLO, viewing them as correct steps toward peace between Israel and the Palestinians. This is the view of 53 percent of those polled, while 28 percent believe the steps to be wrong.

Nearly 70 percent of the public will regard a peace agreement with a Palestinian autonomy an achievement, while 22 percent will not.

The continuation of terrorism is an issue seriously troubling the public. A large majority, some 70 percent, said that if terror continues, they will view it as a failure of the government policy. The public will also regard it a failure if the PLO fails to impose order in the Gaza Strip and terror from there continue. Some 52 percent of those polled stated they will regard this a failure.

Leaflet Urges Soldiers To Act on 'IDF Takeover'

TA3112144593 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 Dec 93 pp 1, 6

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Text] An unsigned underground leaflet addressed to regular and reserve IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, calling for action against what it terms "the takeover of the IDF, which works in the service of the left wing, by the left wing," has been recently published by extreme right-wing circles. Thousands of copies have been distributed to soldiers by a body calling itself The Popular Committee—the IDF [Hava'ada Ha'amamit—Tzahal]. The leaflet says: "We, a group of reserve officers and soldiers, have decided to organize against this trend. We appeal to anyone who is ready to take action and to anyone who has information about such phenomena, asking him to contact The Popular Committee—the IDF, which is a body affiliated with recently established action committees that monitor the political exploitation of state organizations and state budgets. We need every piece of information and are willing to help soldiers who want to fight against the phenomenon."

The soldiers are requested to send their information to Jerusalem post office boxes whose numbers are listed in the leaflet. According to the leaflet, the IDF is ceasing to be a popular army and becoming an army in the service of the left wing. The leaflet notes that the troops orders drafted by the chief education officer and disseminated in every army sector infuriated the right wing. Furthermore, reserves troops beginning a tour of duty receive instructions in which settlers are presented in one category with terrorist organizations, it says.

It goes on to say that IDF generals and other senior officers, who oppose the peace process, are not allowed to voice their views, while dovish senior officers are constantly permitted to do the same. The latter include Major General 'Uzi Dayan, Brigadier General Yomtov Sami', Brig. Gen. Doron Almog, Southern Command Commander Matan Vilna'i, "and the worst was when that general who holds plainly left-wing views, Major General Shahaq, the deputy chief of staff, went to Oslo to make gestures and concessions to terrorists."

The leaflet adds that "it is no wonder that in such an atmosphere, the introduction of a Torah scroll into a place as sacred to Judaism as Joseph's Tomb in Nabulus is seen as provocation by the leftist-Arab government, and that IDF soldiers are ordered to bar the celebrations in the midst of Hanukkah. It is no wonder that in such an atmosphere, IDF troops are summoned to block the way to Joseph's Tomb although it involves a desecration of the Sabbath."

The leaflet further says that while the IDF was reluctant to appoint Dani Nave as its spokesman, it did appoint Avi Bnayahu, "who works for the left-wing 'AL HAMISHMAR newspaper, promoting him to colonel. The IDF Radio is a left-wing bastion and a training ground for future left-wing reporters, and [IDF Radio director] Moshe Shlonsky, who was brought in from that left-wing television, is running the place as if it was a private Peace Now estate, and an announcer who said on air that Rabbi Levinger is the murderer from Hebron has kept his job, receiving a mere reprimand."

MAPAM [United Workers Party] Chairman Hanan Erez has warned against the attempts by anonymous radical circles going under the name of The Popular Committee—the IDF, to exploit the army, undermining its standing and the public confidence in it and its senior commander through their efforts to sabotage the peace process.

Hanan Erez called on Ori Or, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, to take immediate action against the dangerous phenomenon.

Vatican Representative Signs Recognition Accord

LD3012145693 Rome RAI Televideo Teletext in Italian 1421 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] The accord on mutual recognition between the Vatican and Israel was signed at 1500, in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

Monsignor Claudio Celli, the Vatican foreign affairs under-secretary, signed the agreement behalf of the Holy See, as did Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin for the State of Israel.

Egypt Efforts on Israeli Nuclear Arms Viewed

TA3012145793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Dec 93 p B1

[Article by Aluf Ben: "The Role of the Bad Guys"]

[Excerpts] The Israeli-Egyptian relationship is conducted along two parallel tracks. President Husni Mubarak and his aide Usamah al-Baz are the good guys who steer the peace process, mediate between Israel and the Palestinians, and dispatch messages of friendship to the other side of the border.

In this relationship, the role of the bad guys is played by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his assistant Nabil Fahmi, who heads the Egyptian delegation to the arms control talks. These two lead the Egyptian effort to disarm Israel of its nuclear capability, waging a relentless battle against Israel in every possible international forum: the multilateral talks, the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency committees.

The Egyptians want Israel to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) and to divest itself of its strategic assets. If not at once, it should at least occur in agreed-on stages as part of an open political dialogue on nuclear issues. Cairo rejects the Israeli stand that the process should start with confidence-building steps by countries in the region, such as the creation of circles of communication and the laying open of military activities, and that the nuclear debate should be postponed until "due time," after peace arrangements mature and stabilize. [passage omitted]

Musa's and Fahmi's inexorable stance is explained by personal and political motives: Both had worked for the United Nations in the past, during which time they embraced regional nuclear disarmament as a policy line—which also happened to contribute to their personal promotion. The battle against Israel is explained also by Egypt's aspirations to lead the Arab world and its desire to show that even after the peace agreement, it remains the leading factor in the Arab quest for balance with Israel.

Arab countries do not fully subscribe to the Egyptian line. The Palestinians do not fear Israel's nuclear potential, and neither does Jordan. The Syrians believe that territorial restitution and the solution of the Palestinian problem come before the nuclear disarmament of Israel, as Syrian expert Zuhayr Di'ab has recently written. The Gulf states are more concerned about Iran and Iraq. Egypt has thus failed to form an Arab bloc united in its refusal to sign the chemical nonproliferation treaty until Israel joins the NPT. The Gulf and Maghreb states adopted the U.S. line and joined the chemical treaty.

Israel is not particularly worried about the confrontation with Egypt in the arms control talks. Israel is not interested in accelerating the arms control debates, and it adheres to its timeframe: first peace, and then the nuclear issue. Various Israeli elements reacted to the Egyptian stand saying that "they can say it 10 times a day," or that "they say they will go on talking, so we will listen and do whatever we deem appropriate." Yet the introduction of the nuclear waste issue into the environmental talks and at the steering committee talks infuriated Jerusalem, because it contravened an earlier Israeli consent to explain the problem at the bilateral talks.

Some believe, however, that the battle for the deactivation of the Israeli deterrent power has a detrimental long-term impact on the peace process, because this attempt to divest Israel of strategic assets vital for its sense of security in an era of political concessions is forcing Israel to assume a self-defensive attitude. People who embrace this view find it difficult to buy the appeasing messages conveyed to Jerusalem by Usamah al-Baz. They point to the fact that Mubarak has given Musa full freedom of action in his nuclear war on Israel. In the meantime, the relationship with Egypt is going to be conducted with smiles on the peace tracks—as if there was no nuclear issue, and with harsh confrontations on the arms control tracks, as if there was no peace process.

'Arafat Arrives 30 Dec for Short Working Visit

'Arafat Received by King

JN3012163393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat upon his arrival in Amman this afternoon on a short working visit for talks on the peace process in light of the latest developments.

His excellency was also received by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, prime minister; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Royal Hashemite Court chief; his majesty the king's political adviser; and his majesty's advisers.

He was also received by Palestinian Ambassador in Amman al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim and PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Amr.

'Arafat is accompanied by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, and Akram Haniyah, adviser to President 'Arafat for occupied territories affairs.

Talks Stress 'Clear' Coordination

JN3012183093 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] The Jordanian side, led by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Palestinian side led by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, held a meeting soon after 'Arafat's arrival in Amman this afternoon, in which the peace process and latest developments were reviewed.

The two sides emphasized the need to start a new stage of serious, long-term, and clear coordination in a manner that secures the rights of the Palestinian people on their soil, enables them to remain steadfast, alleviates their sufferings under occupation, and secures a free and honorable life with the aim of attaining a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace in the region.

From the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by the prime minister, the Royal Hashemite court chief, and his majesty's advisers. From the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by [PLO Executive Committee members] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Yasir 'Amr, and ['Arafat's adviser] Akram Haniyah.

'Arafat left Amman a short while ago.

More on King-'Arafat Talks

JN3112094293 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 31 Dec 93 pp 1, 27

[Excerpts] Amman—PETRA, Agencies—The Jordanian and Palestinian sides led by His Majesty King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held talks in the royal quarters at Queen Alia International Airport upon 'Arafat's arrival yesterday afternoon. [passage omitted]

An authoritative Jordanian source said that the talks covered the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the implementation of Palestinian autonomy and obstacles preventing it.

During the meeting, 'Arafat affirmed the PLO's rejection of the Israeli proposals, affirming that the text which was published in occupied Jerusalem is an Israeli document which the PLO has rejected, the source added.

The source also noted that the talks dealt with the Jordanian-Palestinian relations and promoting joint coordination.

A Palestinian source said that the two sides decided to activate their six joint committees and to hold a meeting by the higher committee in Amman next week under Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas.

Cabinet Discusses 'Arafat's Visit

JN0101165094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] The council of ministers this morning held a session chaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. During the session, Dr. al-Majali reviewed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's short visit to Jordan and his meeting with top officials. The prime minister said the meeting was frank and cordial and that an agreement was reached on restoring and reviving Jordanian- Palestinian coordination in a manner that is in line with the requirements of the current stage. He said the Palestinian side will send a delegation to Jordan very soon to continue the process of coordination and to agree on basic issues the two sides had previously discussed.

PLO's 'Abd-al-Shafi Arrives, Meets Leaders

Views Memorandum, Coordination

JN3112205293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] After his arrival in Amman today en route to Tunis where he will hold talks with the Palestinian leadership, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, stressed the importance of Arab coordination under the current circumstances. During his meetings in Tunis, he said, discussions will be held on the memorandum which some Palestinian personalities submitted to the Palestinian leadership on recent developments in the Palestinian arena.

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Shafi, in progress] ... the memorandum. President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] asked for a meeting with representatives of those who signed this memorandum to discuss it with them.

[Jordan Television correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab] What are the outlines of this memorandum?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In fact, the memorandum is concerned with the situation which resulted from the Declaration of Principles. This situation poses serious threats to the Palestinians. This requires several things. It requires good readiness and preparation for the negotiations that will be held to interpret and implement the agreement and also for decisionmaking. In this context, we want to expand the basis of decisionmaking.

[Dhiyab] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, you were one of those who advocated Jordanian-Palestinian-Arab coordination. Are you now satisfied with the level of current coordination?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The principle of coordination was approved by everyone. All parties acknowledge that Middle East peace is an indivisible issue, and that there should be a unified Arab position. These are agreed issues. The foreign ministers' meetings which preceded each round of negotiations were held out of [Arab] coordination. It is true that the declaration of principles was reached away from the Arab brothers, which actually violated the principle of coordination. However, I hope that matters will proceed in the direction of coordination. This is an extremely important matter. [end recording]

Received by Prime Minister

JN0101120594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr.'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office in the Prime Ministry today Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations.

The meeting reviewed the latest developments of the peace process, especially in the Palestinian arena.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi emphasized the importance of deepening Jordanian-Palestinian coordination regarding the peace negotiations, and said this coordination should take place any time and anywhere. He emphasized the importance of a unified Arab position and the continuation of coordination by the two sides.

On the memorandum he is carrying to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said this memorandum deals with the difficult and sensitive situation the Palestinians are facing concerning the interpretation and implementation of the Declaration of Principles agreement. He said the Palestinians are facing great challenges, and the memorandum and the meeting [with 'Arafat] concern improving the Palestinian performance in facing these challenges.

Departs Amman After 3-Day Visit

JN0201201194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, left Amman today after a three-day working visit to Jordan. During the visit, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi met with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and a number of Palestinian figures in Jordan.

In a statement before his departure for Tunis, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that he will meet with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to discuss the memorandum that was presented to him by Palestinian figures two weeks ago. This memorandum calls for expanding the base of decisionmaking within the PLO.

He stressed the importance of reactivating Jordanian-Palestinian coordination within the framework of Arab coordination. This is especially so since the peace negotiations are facing a crisis that requires pooling Arab efforts to overcome it in a way that guarantees Arab rights and interests.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi is accompanied by a delegation that includes a number of Palestinian figures who signed the memorandum.

Prime Minister Receives PFLP Leader Habash

JN0101151494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister, today received in his office at the Prime Ministry Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]. The two sides reviewed developments in the Palestinian issue and the peace march in the region.

Dr. Habash said he held talks with the prime minister on the peace march during which Dr. al-Majali reaffirmed Jordan's support for the Palestinian issue. He added that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, will continue to support the Palestinian issue. Habash said: We seek to achieve our national program and our trends toward repatriation and self-determination, establishing an independent Palestinian state.

Habash Views al-Majali Meeting

JN0101184794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. al-Majali, has received in his office at the Prime Ministry Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed developments in the Palestinian cause and the ongoing peace march in the region.

[Begin Habash recording] Naturally, the Palestinian issue, in particular, is a basic issue. It was very important to me to explain the PFLP's stand on the entire course of the settlement. In fact, I felt that I benefited very much from the prime minister's views during this meeting because I listened to the official Jordanian viewpoint on the course of the settlement. I actually expressed much concern about the continuation of positive relations between the PFLP and Jordan on the basis that whatever the differences, the basic focus should be on the need to achieve the Palestinian national program—the program toward achieving repatriation and self-determination and establishing the Palestinian state. I confidently felt that Jordan's regime, under the leadership of his majesty the king, will continue to be of great support to our cause. [end recording]

King Addresses Officers on Palestinian Ties

JN0201101694 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1831 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Speech by King Husayn at a meeting of "high-ranking Jordanian Army officers" in Amman on 1 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] We never gave up faith that we are part of one big Arab family. Jordan continued on the course of the great Arab revolt in defending Palestine, the right of its people to their land, and the right of the Arabs and Muslims in Palestine and in all the big homeland.

In 1948, when they decided to enter Palestine militarily, in spite of all the perils and risks, this country had the honor to move and offer something. This Army, in particular, had had the honor of saving the major part of Palestine, and Jerusalem. We will remember the martyrs as long as we live, and generations to come will also remember them, not to mention the jihad, the sincerity, the courage, and the wisdom of the leadership which enabled much to be attained. Had it not been for this fact of saving the West Bank, there would not have been an opportunity now to discuss how to regain a specific part of the land either by us or by anyone else. No one should forget this fact. We do not say this to have others express gratitude that we have done this and performed this. This is a duty, an honor, and a commitment. We say this just to state a fact which we should not forget because many of us in this part of the world had forgotten many facts from which one could have benefited because they constitute features of what deserves to be adopted or from which advice and lessons could be learned. [passage omitted]

The talk now is about the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship. This relationship is solid, deep, and unique. I frankly say that perhaps we wronged ourselves for many years by agreeing to be an object of attacks, insults, accusations, and the forging of facts. We tolerated these things and we did not deal with them as we should have done. This method, in itself, led to atmospheres fraught with skepticism and doubts, as if in 1948, 1949 and in all the years that followed and from the beginning, Jordan and its leadership have had an objective other than the noble objective of honorably defending this nation and protecting its right, and that Jordan sought to obtain something, or aspired to impose its control. Within this framework, all the Arab, Palestinian, and hostile forces intentionally or unintentionally contributed to sowing doubts and to negatively affecting the picture. However, had we not taken the stand we took in 1967—and we were aware of what the result would be—there would have been an opportunity for an explosion in this country from within, and Israel would have occupied this country, not only the West Bank, but our entire territory as well [passage omitted]

Going back to 1967 and the long years and suffering. A sisterly Arab country was ahead of us in signing a peace treaty with Israel. The situation then developed into an agreement between the Palestinian leadership, which represents the Palestinian Arab people, and the Israeli side. This leadership is the party that has the power, and our role is a supportive one in this case regardless of all other considerations.

The agenda which deals with our issues was signed, and efforts began to discuss its various clauses, which are headlines for all issues important to us. This does not adversely affect the Palestinian rights on their national soil as far as we are concerned.

This is the situation. In addition to this, there is coordination with our brothers within the framework of our utmost capabilities. I believe that the brothers in Syria are also on their way to discussing the dimensions dealing with Syria, and the same is the case with Lebanon. We are in contact with them. We make our own decisions, and we fulfill our obligations toward ourselves, but frankly we believe that there are thorny issues that need time before they are resolved, because this country has endured more than any other country since the beginning, and on all levels. All attempts and all pressures we suffered during the past period... [pauses] All quarters have been asking us to conclude a peace treaty. The answer to all of this was that the peace treaty comes at the end, when all presented issues are resolved in a satisfactory manner to us, of course, and to the concerned parties.

Peace is not a document that we sign, then we start to negotiate. No, we should discuss everything, and when we reach an acceptable and reasonable result, and when we think that our brothers at that time will be in a similar position or ahead of us, then the comprehensive peace will be realized. This peace is what we have been calling for since the very beginning. This is our march and this what we are trying to do.

Our preparations are complete, praise be to God, and we concentrate on three main issues. The issue of land; we have an occupied land that was occupied in the south shortly after 1967. The area of this occupied land is not small, and we insist that it should fully return to Jordanian sovereignty.

There is also the subject of water. You hear much about peace as something that we can consider or leave. We should be aware of the fact and the reality. All reports and studies indicate that in the year 2010 there will not be enough drinking water for the people in Jordan. Practically, we consume less water than others do. This water is consumed by the people, not by agriculture, industry, or any other sector. This is a serious problem that is also facing others. If we consider only this dimension, it will be a great duty to discuss the future of the next generations and how they are going to live.

At least, we have to do whatever we can to ease our consciences in the hope that we will achieve a just, comprehensive, and full peace that would restore rights to their rightful owners and give us the chance to have a rest even for once in preparation for a new phase, given that a state of just, comprehensive, and full peace would provide people with life opportunities that are completely different from those we have seen in terms of educational opportunities, peace of mind, future stability, security and work.

We face constant siege and pressure. We will not accept anything that we do not believe to be right and just. Our heads will never bow to anyone other than Almighty God. But on the other hand, we want just and comprehensive peace. We want a life for your sons and for those who will come afterward.

Israel is a small spot in a large ocean. If the desired peace is established the way it should, with the passage of time, the problem as it is at present will be resolved and done away with. If there are other means that could help ensure stability and guarantee the survival of future generations, I am personally unaware of such means.

With regard to Jordanian-Palestinian relations, I have, as a matter of course, noted, among other things, three issues. These are territory, water resources, and the human individual in terms of the modalities of moving from our current status to the status that should prevail, the opportunities that must be made available to him, the kind of life he must enjoy, stability, the opportunities that would enable him to fulfill himself and achieve all that is possible at present and in the future so he may make up for lost opportunities, and so he may become strong and capable of coping with life and its future challenges. Last, but not least, there is the issue of Jerusalem. Jerusalem will remain in our hearts, consciences, minds, and chests. It will continue to shape our entire lives. This has been the case in the past since the inception of the Great Arab Revolt and continued until the establishment of this kingdom on this spot of earth and thereafter—throughout all stages, be they sweet or bitter, that is, in 1948, 1967, and to date. This will remain the case until doomsday. For in no way whatsoever shall we abandon our responsibilities toward Jerusalem. There are many sides which have their own formulas and views regarding the issue of Jerusalem. But, given the fact that the overall agreement reached between the Palestinians and Israelis was grounded in Security Council Resolution 242, then this agreement covers Jerusalem. If the [Palestinian] brothers were to succeed in their endeavors in the near future, Jerusalem might, God willing, become the symbol of Palestinian-Israeli reconciliation and peace.

As regards holy shrines in Jerusalem and our responsibilities toward them, we will do our best to safeguard and protect these holy shrines. It is our firm belief...[pauses] We have lately called for the restoration of Islamic sovereignty over Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem. This could be achieved through the creation of a nonpolitical body that might bring together the Islamic world and the splintered Islamic nation. It is hoped that such a proposal would enable this nation to play its role and perform its duty toward Jerusalem. If this were to be achieved, we would immensely assist such an endeavor to perform our duty in this regard.

As a matter of course, we call for the continuation of inter-faith dialogue. We also believe that no single country should exercise sovereignty over the holy shrines of the children of Abraham, may God's peace be upon him. For no sovereignty except that of God should be exercised over these holy shrines. God might have willed that this city, which houses shrines that move the hearts of faithful people, lead a kind of life that is unprecedented throughout its long history. This would materialize someday if all faithful people were to choose to humble themselves before the Almighty God, to worship Him, and to respect one another within the context of just and honorable peace. We do not recognize the sovereignty of any party over Jerusalem and Islamic holy shrines there except that of the Almighty God.

This is what we are attempting to promote on the universal, religious, Arab, and Islamic levels. We beseech God to make Jerusalem a meeting point for all Arabs and Muslims, just as Palestine should have been. We have been making enormous efforts to safeguard the future, and will continue to do so. This is the overall picture. I hope that I have managed to explain it to you, or to address some of its main features as they have unfolded during the recent past.

On the Jordanian-Palestinian level, we held a meeting 48 hours ago. I personally regard that meeting as a decisive one. Both the climate and the responsibility require complete frankness. In that meeting, we were extremely frank, gave advice, and defined the fact that we are committed to what we agree on, and that we cannot tell our people that there is coordination unless there is an actual coordination. We cannot tell our people that there is agreement unless there is an actual agreement. We were promised that on Tuesday [4 January], to be exact, the brothers will come here in order to address the required priorities with all possible speed and with the needed perfection and clarity.

For our part, we said that this would be the last opportunity. Otherwise, and henceforth, each side would separately assume its responsibilities. We made attempts and tolerated too much and we cannot proceed in this way. We would then frankly brief the people on all details. We will extend backing and support within the confines of our capabilities and resources, provided that the path has clear features. Commitment should mean commitment. We should not remain in a whirlpool of talks that do not yield tangible results. I ask God that the brothers would be at the required level. It goes without saying that recently I offered advice and tried to say that the situation has changed, that this leadership now must be a leadership for all the Palestinians in the inside and outside. The Palestinians must feel that they are part of the march at this criticial stage. Those who are capable of assuming responsibility should be prepared to do so. They must be given the chance to work in all fields. The question of credibility is very important. We agreed and disagreed tens of times. Then, we found that there are interpretations of what had been agreed. We disagree on these interpretations. However, the picture now is different. The situation is critical and calls for another method. We ask God to help our brothers adopt this method. We will extend support within the confines of our capabilities and resources.

The issue of the bridges, about which you have heard perhaps, was also a point concerning which we blamed the brothers, too; the reports that we heard, namely, that they say that Jordan wishes Israeli control to remain on the crossings and bridges? We are not a party. We told the brothers that we are a state and they are now on the way to establishing their own state. We are on the bridges. We, who are sharing the pain and suffering of our people in the occupied territories, find it impossible to prefer—if this is possible—any presence on these bridges on the Palestinian side except the Palestinians. This climate and this venom is there.

In my talks [with 'Arafat] about the confederation, I asked the brother president to drop this expression from his lexicon and absolutely not to discuss it with me, not in any form—not even any other formula, other type, or other approach that leads to this course.

Brothers, let us be frank. Our enemies worked against us. Ignorant elements and many sides worked against us, harmed this real and unique relationship between relatives and brothers who lived together, and suffered together. Speaking about formulas for the future, we are now tackling differences which exist among our brothers and relatives in the Arab homeland within the framework of the latest formuals that they had agreed. We want to start from the base and reach the top. We need time to dispel these doubts and illusions. The Palestinians and Jordanians must know that they are brothers. If the problems stem from the highest echelons, let us start from a sound basis and let us fully offer our support and backing within the confines of our capabilities. Let us work and at the appropriate time and circumstances, people will decide the nature of the relationship which should be established. But, to create formulas and act on them, I believe is premature and out of place. [passage omitted]

Minister on King's Remarks on PLO Coordination

JN0201175994 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1610 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Interview with Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani by unidentified reporter, in Amman on 2 January]

[Text] [Reporter] Your Excellency, in his speech yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn said that the Palestinian side has promised that a Palestinian delegation will arrive in Amman to discuss priorities between the two sides in a frank and open atmosphere. His Majesty King Husayn said that this will be the last opportunity for understanding. How do you explain His Majesty King Husayn's remarks in this regard?

[Al-'Anani] I believe that His Majesty King Husayn's speech is based on a very strong concern, as usual, about making the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination on the highest level and very clear. This is because everyone is watching this relationship and many decisions will be made in accordance with this relationship. The other thing is that time is passing quickly and that events are changing rapidly. Moreover, there are timetables included in the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. These timetables set dates for accomplishing matters. So, out of his concern about making this relationship clear and proceeding within sound frameworks, especially since any agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis affects us and the current peace talks affect both of us a great deal, coordination is a must. Based on this, postponing this issue or making Jordan wait longer than it should, will reflect negatively on us and on the Palestinian brothers. Therefore, I see in his majesty's remarks a strong concern about the importance of this cooperation and the need to put it within a set timetable so that it will not continue to be without set dates and results. Here lies the importance of His Majesty King Husayn's remarks.

[Reporter] What can we discern about Jordan's negotiating strategy from His Majesty King Husayn's speech concerning a peace treaty?

[Al-'Anani] I believe that His Majesty King Husayn has a great deal of experience regarding the Arab-Israeli relationship. He has continuously proven that he is farsighted concerning many issues. His awareness has preceded that of others most, if not all, of the time. So, his majesty knows full well that the peace talks should not lead to a treaty, except at the end. In other words, you must resolve all relevant issues. This is what was included in the Jordanian-Israeli agenda. First we should discuss water, people, land, and many other issues related to the peace process such as the refugees and the displaced issue. When all these issues are settled and when we become certain that peace will be just and comprehensive on all fronts and cover all these issues, then the talk about a peace treaty becomes clear.

If we declare an intention to sign agreements and going on to talk about them, we leave the field open for misunderstandings and various interpretations that could hold up the entire the peace process. There is a logical sequence that his majesty's speech made clear.

[Reporter] His majesty spoke about certain fears being raised about an Israeli domination under peace?

[Al-'Anani] His majesty's speech has made it absolutely clear that, as a man of vision, certain pieces of advice he has given to his brother Arab leaders, have turned out to be the right counsel. Take what happened in the 1967 war when we joined a war for which we were caught unprepared and thus passed up the opportunity to be better prepared in the future. Again, consider the Khartoum no's of the 1969 Arab summit. These created an emotionally charged atmosphere in which we could not bring our calmer reason to bear in weighing things and making the right decisions. The result has been agreements inferior to what we may have otherwise obtained. Now, his majesty has drawn attention to fears being raised with a view to delaying negotiations about peace. His majesty says that the Arab world's squandering of or failure to put the assets and resources it has at its command to good use may lie at the heart of the conflict. His majesty also blames Arab disarray. If we close ranks, as his majesty has been urging, and if we marshal Arab resources in the peace battle, we will not enable Israel to control the Arabs. We know that in the year 2025, there will be 600 million Arabs. What will Israel be like then? Indeed, Israel has more to fear from the peace process. It is agonizing over the decision whether or not to make peace. Given its assets and resources, however, the Arab world is well positioned to counter Israeli or any other hegemony.

Palestinian Moves Urged To Protect Ties

JN0301115494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Jan 94 pp 1, 28

[Editorial: "Husayn Delineates Milestones Along the Road"]

[Text] In his recent address to his valiant soldiers, which abounds with honesty, candor, and confidence, His Majesty King Husayn has reviewed the pan-Arab record of this homeland, which has shed chaste blood in defense of Palestine, the territories, and holy shrines. In his address, his majesty the king has underscored the grave responsibilities Jordan has been shouldering with all manliness and honor toward all pan-Arab causes, foremost among which is the Palestine question.

In this address, His Majesty King Husayn has addressed various historical junctures, and explained in detail the circumstances surrounding these junctures, as well as the historical facts regarding these junctures. He has also spoken of the valuable lessons learned from these junctures. We would like to dwell upon the last one addressed by the king, namely, the ongoing peace process. His majesty the king has explained the peace process thoroughly, provided us with an insight into its future prospects, and underscored the urgent requirements of this phase.

The first requirement of this phase in the peace process, which was heralded by a joint Jordanian-Palestinian endeavor, and indeed, by a single political umbrella, is to promote bilateral coordination to the degree that reflects the current state of affairs between two fraternal peoples, who share common aspirations as well as common national woes, not to mention blood relations, history, geography, and joint pan-Arab interests.

Courtesy over this vital issue is no longer useful. The brothers are required to meet as soon as possible to address urgent priority issues, and reach a clear agreement that would delineate duties and responsibilities in all clarity and accuracy. This is necessary if Jordan, this steadfast Arab bastion, is to continue to extend its utmost support and assistance to the Palestinian brothers in observance of its strong national and pan-Arab commitments.

We are duty bound to say here that the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination lacks the required credibility. It is necessary to shun traditional courtesy to proceed together toward a proper handling of urgent issues, and explore all possible eventualities, particularly since the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles is bound to affect, one way or another, Jordan's present and future.

Given all this, it is an inescapable duty to put bilateral coordination in its proper context, and promote it within a firm institutionalized framework that is capable of protecting the interests of Jordanians and Palestinians alike and averting any crises that could burden the strong and firm Jordanian-Palestinian relations at present or in the future in any way whatsoever.

The Jordanians and Palestinians, who are brothers, have lived and suffered together. They do not have any doubts about the strenuous efforts Husayn has made throughout the past years to defend this chaste soil. Likewise, they are aware that the Hashemite leadership has made relentless and indefatigable efforts to ensure that the rights are returned to their rightful owners, and avert imminent dangers threatening this nation. The Jordanians and Palestinians will not hesitate to continue the march they have started along the path of unity, which reflects strongly cherished sentiments within the hearts of all of them.

Memorandums Exchanged With Vatican on Ties

JN3112193493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Excerpt] An official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry has stated that official memorandums have been exchanged between the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Vatican as a prelude to establishing diplomatic relations at an ambassadorial level between the two countries.

The spokesman pointed out that intensive and continued contacts are under way through diplomatic channels on this issue. An announcement on taking this step will be made soon, he said.

The spokesman added that final arrangements will be worked out to translate the cordial and distinguished relations between Jordan and the Vatican. His Majesty King Husayn and His Holiness Pope John Paul II are eager to entrench these relations, so they will enjoy much respect and appreciation proceeding from the historic and distinguished bilateral relations, he noted.

The Vatican's official spokesman, Dr. (Navarro Valse), said Jordanian-Vatican relations are good and fruitful. In a news conference held at the Vatican, he added that the Vatican also has good relations with many regional states, and has contacts on fruitful cooperation with some of them. He particularly pointed to relations with Jordan, and asserted that Christians in Jordan enjoy unequalled privileges. Dr. (Valse) added that out of their desire to put these good relations in an institutional framework, the two sides began to negotiate the establishment of full diplomatic relations. There was an agreement on this issue.

(Valse) explained that the arrangements on this issue are about to be finalized, and that they will be announced soon. He expressed the hope that this step will be a catalyst to enhance the current cooperation with Jordan that has long contributed to supporting and promoting the peace process. He indicated Jordan's great role in regional stability and security. [passage omitted]

Islamic Action Front on Israeli-Vatican Accord

NC3112192693 Paris AFP in English 1845 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Amman, Dec 31 (AFP) - Jordan's Islamic Action Front, a key party with 16 seats in the 80-member Chamber of Deputies, on Friday [31 December] slammed the Vatican-Israel accord calling for diplomatic ties next year.

"The recognition reflects allegiance by the Christian spiritual leadership to zionist hegemony," the front said in a statement received by AFP.

"It also reflects the zionist movement's success in Judaizing the western church and exploiting its leadership to achieve zionist objectives," it said.

Israeli and Vatican officials said the agreement, which was signed in Jerusalem on Thursday, avoided the status of East Jerusalem which has yet to be determined in Israeli-PLO negotiations.

Israeli-Vatican Accord Termed 'Most Unfortunate'

JN0101103194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Jan 94 p 4

[Editorial: "On Ties and Jerusalem"]

[Text] The agreement between Israeli and the Vatican to establish political ties, which was signed in Jerusalem on Thursday [30 December], is most unfortunate since it amounts to recognition by the Holy See of Israel's sovereignty over the Holy City. In article 3 of the agreement, Israel, without mention of Jerusalem, "recognises the Catholic Church's right to practise its authority." The fact that the negotiations leading to the accord were conducted in Jerusalem and the agreement itself was signed in the city can only reinforce that conclusion.

We understand that the Vatican had come under immense pressure to conclude such an agreement with Israel by constantly having been reminded of all the atrocities that were committed against the Jews in Europe over the centuries, with the blessing of the church on many occasions. True, the Vatican is certainly not a superpower in the physical sense of the word. Yet, being the spiritual leader of 1,000 million Catholic faithfuls, the Pope, in whatever action he takes, serves as a guiding example for those millions.

It is therefore disappointing to see the Vatican turning a blind eye to Israel's description of the occupied Arab lands as 'disputed territories." equally disappointing is to witness the Vatican's deputy foreign minister, Monsignr Claudio Celli, sign the document of mutual recognition with his Israeli counterpart Yossi Beilen in Jerusalem.

The Vatican cannot claim, as it did when it signed the agreement Thursday, a stranger to all temporal conflicts," because it is not. In the past decade and during Pope John Paul's reign, the Vatican was party to almost every single "temporal conflict" in Europe, Latin America and Africa. It chose to oppose and fight communism in Eastern Europe. It sided with the U.S. in fighting the Sandinista government in Nicaragua. And Pope John Paul himself did not hesitate to scold his Sudanese hosts last year for the brutal war in south Sudan.

Muslim and Christian Arabs are disheartened therefore to see the Vatican take a step towards legitimising Israel's occupation and annexation of the city and the Holy See's backtracking in commitment pledged to Arabs and Palestinians. This move at this crucial time will only strengthen the hands of Israel and weaken the Palestinian cause at a time where every genuine effort should be exerted to solve the Middle East peace conflict justly and honourably.

Attempt To Assassinate al-Hirawi Uncovered

NC3112060593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Certain quarters are seeking to confuse the domestic Lebanese situation, particularly at the security level. The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY cites informed sources as saying that an attempt to assassinate President Ilyas al-Hirawi a month ago has been uncovered. The security agencies arrested a number of suspects and they are being interrogated.

The security agencies apprehended a network in the north a few days ago. The network is suspected of engineering recent explosions in different areas; its members belong to extremist groups that seek to sow sedition by undermining stability.

The security agencies have also apprehended members of a network in the south, made up of extremist Palestinians who cooperate mostly with Lebanese elements with criminal records. They are being interrogated to discover any links between the various attempts to undermine stability, the latest of which was the explosion at the Phalangist Party's central headquarters.

Attempt on al-Hirawi Denied

NC3112121793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 31 dec 93

[Text] A reliable security source has denied a report carried by some news media on an attempt to assassinate the president of the republic a month ago. This report is completely untrue, the source said, and called on all mass media not to publish such biased reports until they are verified by the competent security agencies. He also cautioned the citizens against believing such rumors, which seek to cast doubts on and shake confidence in the march to security and stability, which has gained strength over the past three years.

Al-Murr: Al-Asad-Clinton Meeting 'Watershed'

NC0201175094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr has affirmed that the region will embark on a qualitative change in the course toward peace in the next two months. He has also indicated the al-Asad-Clinton meeting in the middle of the month will be an important watershed for the course toward peace and a new turning point for all the crises that we have encountered. Al-Murr denied that there are any differences among government members. He indicated that the government encourages Lebanese to invest their funds in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Leader on U.S. Stance on Detainees

NC0301072794 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah has criticized the U.S. attitude toward the Lebanese detainees in the prisons of the Israeli enemy and its agents. He said that the United States is not worthy of playing any humanitarian role. At a ceremony held by Hizballah in al-Ghubayrah in Beirut, he said that the United States shows concern only about the seven Israeli soldiers, but Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, hundreds of Lebanese detainees kidnapped from their homes in organized terrorist operations, and thousands of Palestinians detained in jails in occupied Palestine do not move the feelings of the United States or Christopher.

Officials, Others React to Israeli-Vatican Ties

Buwayz Comments

NC3112212093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stressed that the Israeli military escalation in south Lebanon is aimed at diverting attention from the main objective of the peace negotiations to discussions on security. He said in a press meeting this afternoon that Lebanon must not yield to this or accept the replacement of basic and substantive issues by security proposals.

Concerning relations between Israel and the Vatican, Buwayz hoped they would remain within the context of urging and pressuring Israel into implementing international resolutions and complying with the peace principles drafted in Madrid. [passage omitted]

Denunciation From Islamic Groups

NC0101182594 Paris AFP in English 1638 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Beirut, Jan 1 (AFP)—Lebanon's pro-Iranian fundamentalist groups on Saturday [1 January] denounced the Israeli-Vatican accord, with one group calling for a boycott of a visit here in May by Pope John Paul II.

The Shiite Moslem Hizballah denounced the Holy See's recognition of Israel as a "historic sin against Christ and all humanity. How can a state created in the name of Christ recognize the legality of an entity established by usurpation and injustice?" it asked.

Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, former Hizballah secretary general and leader of the group's radical wing, said in comments published by the press that a link exists between the pope's visit to Lebanon and recognition of Israel.

"This visit becomes a basis for evil and action that does not serve the interests of the Lebanese," he said. Al-Tufayli expressed surprise that "the Vatican speaks of peace when it signs a document recognizing the Zionist entity."

The spiritual leader of Hizballah, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, on Friday also denounced the Israeli-Vatican accord as ignoring the "teachings of Jesus Christ."

Shaykh Mahir Hammud, the political director of the Sunni Assembly of Moslem Ulema (religious scholars) which is close to Iran, called on "the free forces" in Lebanon to boycott the pope's visit.

He said the accord signed Thursday in Jerusalem between the Vatican and Israel, which calls for diplomatic ties this year, is based on "the principles of the Zionist movement, not those of the Vatican."

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said: "We would have preferred it if Israel's recognition by the Vatican had taken place after the Jewish state complied with the principles of peace decided at the Madrid conference."

The Madrid conference in October 1991 launched the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The Vatican-Israel pact should "at least be part of pressure on Israel to execute international resolutions," Buwayz added.

Lebanon has repeatedly called for Israel to comply with U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 to withdraw from south Lebanon.

Fadlallah Criticizes Move

NC0101111894 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stressed that the Vatican's recognition of Israel is not a Christian recognition. He noted that the new year marks the death of an old era and the birth of a new one. He added: We told the Vatican, which we respect, that if Christ were here now he would expel the Jews from the temple as he did the thieves, because the Jews are the thieves of security, politics, and economy. Therefore, the Vatican's recognition of Israel is not Christian because we believe in Christ's values, which are ones of right and justice. To recognize Israel, he added, is to recognize its injustice against the Arabs and the Palestinians.

'Allamah Fadlallah noted that the United States stands against any righteous and just position in the Third World and is working with its full power against the Islamists and to besiege the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: While we believe that the United States is the enemy of the peoples and justice, we have no problem with the American people but rather our problem is with the U.S. Administration. Our problem with this administration is that there is no U.S. policy in the region, there is an Israeli policy.

Junblatt Condemns 'Hostile Alliance'

NC0301074694 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Progressive Socialist Party Leader Minister Walid Junblatt has condemned the Vatican's recognition of Israel and described it as an alliance hostile to Arabism and Islam. This action confirms Western-Jewish plotting against the region and its peoples, resources, and identity. He said that the Vatican's recognition of Israel 500 years after the fall of Granada is a Zionist Jewish victory in the world, particularly in the mother Christian church in Rome.

Junblatt added: Perhaps we cannot assess now all implications of this Western-Zionist alliance, but we can say that our Arab identity and our Islamic identity are in danger. Pope John Paul's upcoming visits to Lebanon and occupied Palestine come within this context and cap this alliance. Any other talk about the pope's visit is meaningless. He said: The church leaders in Lebanon—who now advocate human rights, freedom, and other resounding slogans—were mute when Beirut was pounded during the Israeli invasion and when the Lebanese Government signed the 17 May accord with the Israeli Government. [passage omitted]

Unknown Group Claims Attack on SLA

NC0101182394 Paris AFP in English 1533 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, Jan 1 (AFP)—Israel's proxy militia in south Lebanon came under attack on Saturday [1 January] but suffered no casualties, the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia said.

Guerrillas opened fire with rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine guns at an SLA position in Sujud on the edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone," the militia said.

The attack was claimed in a statement issued in Beirut by a hitherto unknown movement, "The Arm of the National Revolution."

The group said the Muhammad Salim group of that movement carried out the attack. Salim, who was killed five years ago, was a leader of the pro-Damascus secular National Social Syrian Party in Lebanon.

Elsewhere, guerrillas fired three Katyusha rockets overnight Friday at the areas around Marj 'Uyun, headquarters of the Israeli army and SLA in the occupied zone, but caused no casualties, the police said.

On Tuesday the pro-Iranian Hizballah militia pounded the security zone, notably Marj 'Uyun, firing more than 100 Katyusha rockets and heavy artillery shells, and launched some 20 attacks against SLA positions.

Israeli helicopters carried out a series of retaliatory raids against positions of the fundamentalist movement which left four people dead, including three Hizballah guerrillas.

Hizballah has spearheaded daily attacks on Israeli and SLA forces in south Lebanon since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed a limited Palestinian autonomy accord on September 13 in Washington.

The anti-Israel attacks come ahead of a summit this month in Geneva between U.S. President Bill Clinton and his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad, to discuss the resumption of Syrian- Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli peace talks.

Spokesman Denies Secret Israeli Negotiations

JN3112164093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] An Information Ministry spokesman has stated the following: The news by AFP about negotiations between Syrian and Israeli officials in European capitals is unfounded and fabricated. The sources from which it has derived this information are liars and harm the credibility of the agency itself. If AFP were not one of the world's most far-reaching agencies, we would not have replied to these allegations, especially because Syria, as is known, adheres to the framework of the Madrid peace conference and to the Washington talks that stemmed from that framework.

Al-Asad Talks With Arab Leaders, Christopher

JN3112214593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad today received a phone call from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The two presidents exchanged congratulations on the new year. They also discussed latest developments in the region.

President Hafiz al-Asad this evening received a phone call from His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal. The president and his majesty the king exchanged congratulations on the new year. They also talked about issues of interest to the two fraternal countries.

The president this evening received a phone call from Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who congratulated the president on the new year. Talks also centered on issues of interest to Syria and Lebanon.

President Hafiz al-Asad this evening received a phone call from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who congratulated the president on the new year. He also conveyed U.S. President Bill Clinton's greetings and congratulations on the new year. The president thanked him, exchanged congratulations with him, and asked him to convey his greetings and congratulations to President Clinton on the new year. During the contact, they also discussed the meeting which will be held between the president and President Clinton in Geneva as well as the upcoming visit to the region by a U.S. congressional delegation to discuss missing Israeli soldiers.

Papers Preview al-Asad-Clinton Summit

JN3112095693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 31 Dec 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH discusses the meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton, scheduled for mid-January in Geneva. The projected summit has already caught the attention of Middle East watchers and Arab and world media. The consensus is that the fate of the entire Middle East peace process hangs on the outcome of the Geneva summit. AL-BA'TH notes the importance that the United States attaches to the Geneva summit and cites a statement to that effect by Warren Christopher. The paper also quotes U.S. Administration officials as expressing the hope the session will propel the peace process forward and Washington's assertion that it will continue to work for a comprehensive peace.

Arab and world media are agreed that Syria's posture on the peace process is the right one. They point out that Middle East security and stability are inconceivable while a chunk of Arab territory remains under Israeli occupation. AL-BA'TH stresses that the world, and the United States in particular, realizes that, without the involvement of Syria and Lebanon, peace in the Middle East stands no chance. It counsels wariness of Israel's procrastination and insistence on separate and partial deals. Syria, the paper emphasizes, will have absolutely nothing to do with partial and separate deals, as such a course will heighten tension in the region. Syria wants a comprehensive peace founded on UN resolutions and the Madrid formula, AL-BA'TH concludes.

AL-THAWRAH comments on escalating Israeli attacks on south Lebanon, seeing the action within the context of a strategy to use the volatile situation as a bargaining chip and lever to apply pressure on Lebanon. The Rabin government, using an iron fist to blackmail Lebanon, deal with it in isolation from other Arab states, and force it into signing a separate agreement, is out to undermine coordination among Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. The idea is to weaken the Arab position and pave the way for Israel to deal with each of the three tracks separately and subsequently dictate its terms and own solutions. Coming two weeks before the the summit between al-Asad and Clinton, the attacks are seen by the paper as a bid to whip up tension and deflect the session from its declared objective of giving an impetus to the peace process and promoting a just and comprehensive settlement along the lines of the Madrid formula and pertinent UN resolutions.

The responsibility of the international community and the American sponsors cannot be overstated. Both must use their clout, be firm, and rein in Israel lest it get carried away by its aggressive bent. They must bring about enough pressure to force an Israeli pullout of south Lebanon, the Golan Heights, and other occupied Arab territory as envisaged by UN resolutions—the underpinnings of a fair and comprehensive peace, AL-THAWRAH concludes.

Afghanistan

Fighting Between Rabbani, Dostam Forces

Dostam Stripped of Powers

LD0201112694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Fierce fighting continues between the Afghan Defense Ministry and General Dostam's forces in Kabul.

According to a report by the Central News Unit in Kabul, clashes have raged since yesterday in the capital of Afghanistan, and so far hundreds of people have been killed or wounded. Also, thousands of shells, mortars, and rockets have hit the warring sides positions and various areas of Kabul.

Kabul Radio and Television, which is controlled by the supporters of President Borhanoddin Rabbani, strongly attacked General Dostam and announced that he has been stripped of all his legal and official powers.

Borhanoddin Rabbani last year appointed General Dostam as the first deputy of the Afghan Defense Ministry.

According to the Kabul Radio and Television, Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] forces are confronting the Defense Ministry forces and are fighting alongside General Dostam's forces.

Rasul Sayyaf, the leader of the Etehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union of Afghanistan] and the main ally of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, also stressed, during a speech broadcast on that country's radio and television, that battles will continue until the complete annihilation of the Northern Movement led by General Dostam.

The report of the Voice and Vision correspondent from Kabul mentions that again today the Iranian Embassy in Kabul became the target of a mortar attack during the exchange of fire between the warring sides, but none of the embassy workers were harmed.

Government Forces Foil Dostam Attack

BK0201150894 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] According to reports government forces have foiled a big attack on Kabul by forces of General Dostam and Mahmud Barialay and as a result the situation in the city have now relatively eased. A spokesman of the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad in a press conference today claimed that the Islamic Army of Afghanistan have captured many areas including (Pol-e Mahmud Khan), Chaman Hozuri, Khawaja Rawash Airport, Bala Hesar, (Chapaibibi Mehroh), and Mazar-e-Sharif Airport. He said the enemy forces have suffered heavy losses. About 200 persons have been killed during fighting and at least 12 tanks captured. He said fierce fighting is still going on in Faryab Province, as well as, in the Province of (Shabergam).

Rabbani Denies Radio Kabul Seized

LD0201170794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1600 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of continuing clashes between the rival forces in and around Kabul. Afghan sources told Radio Pakistan's Peshawar representative this evening that the situation in Kabul is very tense and intensified fighting is going on for the control of sensitive government installations. The sources claimed that dissidents have already captured Radio Kabul; however, a spokesman for President Rabbani has denied it. Scores of people are reported killed and wounded in the fighting.

Kabul Transmitter Down

LD0301111394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Kabul remains the scene of intense battles between the warring factions for a third day. Thousands of artillery shells, bullets, and rockets have hit various districts of Kabul, leaving hundreds dead. Here is our colleague with a telephone report from Kabul on the situation:

[Unidentified correspondent] I am reporting from Kabul. The battle between the warring factions intensified this morning. As a result of artillery fire, Kabul radio's transmitter is out of action.

Forces of Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] have joined General Dostam's forces, and forces loyal to Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union of Afghanistan] of Rasul Sayyaf have joined those of President Borhanoddin Rabbani, and have turned Kabul into a battle arena since dawn this morning.

Another report from Kabul's hospitals indicate that 650 wounded people, mostly civilians, are hospitalized in two city hospitals. Reports from the southeastern district of Kabul, the main area of concentration of General Dostam's forces, indicate that the intensity of the clashes prevents the people from evacuating their dead and wounded from houses. Columns of thick smoke cover the sky above Kabul and in the city itself nothing but the fire of artillery exchanges is visible.

Dostam Forces Tighten Siege on Kabul

LD0301112394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Sources close to Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] say that troops of the forces opposed to President Borhanoddin Rabbani of Afghanistan are tightening their siege on Kabul and on the forces loyal to

Hezb-e Jam'iat-e Eslami [Islamic Society of Afghanistan] from the east, south, and north of the city.

Forces affiliated to Ahmed Shah Mas'ud have reported the arrest of 300 troops loyal to General Dostam.

The Afghan Embassy in Islamabad announced that heavy clashes have occurred between forces of Rabbani and General Dostam in Faryab and Sheberghan.

Meanwhile Hezb-e Wahhdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan] announced that the experience of the war during the past 20 months has demonstrated that none of the warring sides will gain victory and that Hezb-e Wahhdat-e Eslami will not side with any of the warring factions, but will endeavor to terminate the war in which the people are suffering the most.

India

Belgian Release of JKLF Leader Questioned

BK3012130493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] In the Rajya Sabha, the opposition today expressed concern over the reported decision of the Belgian Government to deport the JKLF [Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front] chief, Amanullah Khan, to Pakistan. Raising the issue during zero hour [time when there is nothing on the agenda], Mr. J.P. Mathur, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]; Mr. I.J. Gujral, Janata Dal; and others said Amanullah Khan was arrested in Brussels on a warrant issued by India. They asked the government to clarify whether the Indian case was effectively presented in the Brussels court.

Belgium Rejects Extradition

BK3112035093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] New Delhi regretted the rejection of its request by the Belgian Government for the extradition of the JKLF [Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front] leader, Amanullah Khan, to India. Talking to newspersons, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that the government of India had provided comprehensive details to the government of Belgium. The case was presented in the court by the public prosecutor of that country. The spokesman observed that the decision is not based on the facts of the case but on political and extremist consideration.

Replying to another question on the forthcoming Indo-Pakistan foreign secretary level talks, the spokesman said India has adopted a realistic approach and is going for the talks to Islamabad with a lot of hopes. He said the government of India has noted certain reports appearing in the Pakistani press and has preferred to ignore them.

Italian Foreign Minister Arrives 2 Jan

BK0301094894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] The Italian foreign minister, Professor Beniamino Andreatta, arrived in New Delhi on a three-day visit last night. He visited Rajghat this morning and laid a wreath at the samadhi [mausoleum] of Mahatma Gandhi. Professor Andreatta is to call on the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, and the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, today.

Troop Reduction Talks Begin With PRC

BK0201092894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] India and China will soon start talks on reducing troop levels on both sides of the Line of Actual Control. This is in pursuance of an agreement signed during the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit to Beijing during September last year. The Chinese ambassador, Mr. Cheng Ruisheng, said in New Delhi that an expert group of diplomats and military personnel set up as part of the agreement will hold its talks in the capital next month. He said both the countries want to divert their resources from military to economic development. He also said that a high-level delegation of the Communist Party of China will be on a week-long visit to India from seventh of this month at the invitation of the Congress-I. A festival of India will be held in China in May this year, he added.

Rao Refuses Finance Minister's Resignation

BK3112130893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] The prime minister has refused to accept the resignation of the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. This was stated by the official spokesman in New Delhi today. The prime minister, in a letter to Dr. Singh, said taking all factors into consideration, including the enormous agenda of work, it would not be appropriate for him to resign.

Commentary Discusses Economy, Reform Measures

BK0301111294 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Commentary by A.K. Bhattacharya]

[Text] The latest review of the Indian economy suggests that the gross domestic product during the current financial year ending March 1994 will be between four and five percent. This may not be an achievement worth a celebration. But at the same time, it is not an easy task either to clock a four or five percent GDP growth in only the third year of the economic reforms. The experience of economic reforms all over the world has shown that there is a sharp decline in growth of GDP in the first few years after the introduction of structural adjustments and economic reforms policies. This is because the industry and other economic agents take their own time to get adjusted to the new rules of the game. As a result, GDP growth is the first casualty. The fiscal squeeze, which normally accompany such reforms and structural adjustment, has also been rather modest, some critics argue. This will mean that there has been virtually no fiscal squeeze in 1993-94. The hope now is that the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, will present a budget for 1994-95 in February that seeks to reduce the fiscal deficit to a more manageable level and in consistence with the pursuit of economic reforms and structural adjustment policies of the government.

The government's optimism on the GDP growth can also be explained from the fact that the agricultural sector will once again do reasonably well during the current year, exceeding the production levels reached in 1992-93. Monsoons have been good this year and there has been no slippages in the timely supply of fertilizers. Even the procurement prices for major crops during both the commercial rabi [spring] and main kharif [autumn] seasons were announced well in time, ensuring that farmers go ahead with their plans for sowing in full knowledge of the likely returns the crops might fetch in the market. Since the weightage of agricultural production in the GDP is quite substantial, any increase in the farm output helps the economy record a reasonable growth rate even if industrial production lacks behind the targets.

Such optimism has now been further boosted by the fact that the industrial sector has at last begun to see some light at the end of the long tunnel called recession. The depression of demand witnessed in most consumer durable sectors in this country for the last two years seems to be over. A large number of industries, including those in the transportation sector like the automobiles manufactures, are reporting higher sales. The six-monthly performance of the most companies operating in the consumer durable sector have shown a marked improvement in the sales. Excise duty collections, which is one of the key indicators of the degree of manufacturing activity in industry, has also begun picking up.

If all this gets reflected in GDP as they should, there is no reason to doubt the government's projection that the GDP growth this year would cross four percent. There is, however, a need for striking a note of caution here. A GDP growth of four percent may be a reasonably satisfactory performance for an economy in its third year of economic reform, but this is decidedly far below the potential of an economy of India's size and resources. As the finance minister has often reiterated in the past India should look forward to an annual growth rate of around 10 percent in the next decade and only then can it live up to the world's expectations of being an uncaged tiger.

Quite clearly, the need for the hour is to get on with the second phase of economic reforms without any delay. It is an acknowledged fact that future growth will not come to much from industry as from the services sector. The potential of the services sector in this country lies virtually untapped. The financial sector reforms are now under way. Once the R.N. Malhotra Committee's report on liberalizing the insurance sector is accepted by the government, one can hope for further reforms in this crucial area of the economy also. The financial markets and the capital market too are gradually getting liberalized. This should in near future allow the entrepreneurial talent of the Indian businessmen to exploit the potential availability in this sector in competition with foreign firms. In the financial sector also, more new private banks are being set up, stepping up the pace of economic activities in the economy through a transparently competitive environment. In the coming years, the services sector would take a clear lead in terms of the economy's GDP growth. And, as long as such reforms process continues unimpaired, there is every reason to achieve a higher a GDP growth of around 10 percent in the next few years.

Iran

Turkmen President, Delegation Arrive on Visit

LD0201113894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] The president of Turkmenistan, Saparmurad Niyazov, arrived this morning in Tehran for a five-day visit at the head of a delegation, and was officially welcomed by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Our correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] After arriving in Tehran, Niyazov praised Hashemi-Rafsanjani as a distinguished international political and cultural figure and spoke about the depth of friendship, the strength of brotherhood, and the scope of cooperation between the two countries.

The president of Turkmenistan spoke of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip to his country as an unforgettable event for the people of Turkmenistan and said: Iran is a powerful and influential country in the world, and Turkmenistan, through an emphasis on its relations with the Islamic Republic, uses the experiences of the Iranian Government and people in development.

He emphasized that cooperation between the two countries is not to the detriment of other countries, and that the countries of Central Asia and member countries of the Commonwealth, in their recent session in Ashgabat, stressed their interest in expanding relations with Iran.

In turn, Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke about the process of cooperation between the two countries and said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I think cooperation between Iran and Turkmenistan, is an example of good relations between two sincere neighbors. We have achieved good progress since Turkmenistan achieved independence and the process of cooperation continues. During my recent trip to Turkmenistan we made important decisions. The people of Turkmenistan showed that they have extraordinary interest in cooperating with Iran. Turkmenistan's presidenct, His Excellency Mr. Niyazov, ministers, and other officials extended their best regards and following our invitation, Niyazov, accompanied by a high-ranking and wide-ranging delegation, has now come to Iran. The composition of their delegation indicates their wish to work with Iran in all fields, and this we welcome. They have also put aside sufficient time to stay in Iran, again indicating the importance of this relationship. They also intend to visit various parts of the country, again indicating their interest in Iran. We did the same while in Turkmenistan. I think this could be a good example for the world, of relations between two countries. God willing. [end recording]

[Correspondent] This is the third time that Niyazov is visiting Iran in the past three years since Turkmenistan achieved independence. He is being accompanied by 14 senior government officials, including vice presidents, ministers, and governors.

Meeting With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0201193794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] The first official round of talks between Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr. Saparmurad Niyazov, presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan, was held on Sunday [2 January] evening.

At the meeting, Mr. Niyazov thanked the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their warm hospitality and explained that the aim of his trip to Iran is to benefit from our country's successful experiences and to find new ways for expanding bilateral relations in a new era of cooperation between the two countries.

The president of Turkmenistan emphasized the religious, cultural, and historical features shared by the two countries and noted that Iran is a country with an ancient history and civilization. He said: Turkmenistan wishes to have wider cultural links with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He expressed the hope that Turkmenistan's cultural experts will use the existing historical and cultural works in Iran's libraries and educational centers to compile that country's history.

Mr. Niyazov said in connection with the Ashgabat meeting: With the establishment of a climate of friendship and understanding between neighboring and regional countries, the growing trend of cooperation between Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran will also accelerate.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, for his part, referred to the composition of Turkmenistan's high-ranking delegation and said that this delegation's trip provides a good opportunity for fulfilling the aims of widening relations between the two countries. He added: Because Iran and Turkmenistan are neighbors, both countries desire deep and friendly relations; and the visits paid by high-ranking officials of the two countries to Tehran and Ashgbat have been instrumental in serving this objective.

The president pointed to the existence of land and sea borders between the two countries in the Khorasan, Gilan, and Mazendaran Provinces, adding: These provinces, which have suitable natural and geographical features, can play a fundamental role in the growth of trade and economic exchanges between the two countries. He stressed the role of the joint commission between the two countries in the development of relations and cooperation and noted the need for the creation of facilities in the area of transport and travel for the purposes of exchanges of views and experiences between commercial and economic experts of Iran and Turkmenistan.

The talks were also attended by the two countries' ministers of foreign affairs, culture, commerce, post, telegraph and telephone, transport, and agriculture, and a number of other officials. It was decided at the talks that committees will be formed with the involvement of experts on political matters, transport and communications, economics, commerce, education, training, health, agriculture, fisheries, gas and oil, and culture and tourism. After discussion and debate, the committee experts are to convey the results to the presidents of Iran and Turkmenistan.

More on Delegation's Activities

LD0201194794 Tehran IRNA in English 1921 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA—Visiting Turkmen vice-president, Boris Shikhmuradov, today met Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here and discussed avenues to boost Tehran-Ashgabat ties.

The officials of the two countries exchanged views on such issues as raliways, oil and gas, border issues, consulate affairs, customs and industrial issues as well as transmission of elecricity from Turkmenistan to other countries via Iran.

Shikhmuradov briefed Velayati on the recent meeting of the heads of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Ashgabat.

"The Turkmen nation attaches great importance to relations with Iran," Shikhmuradov said.

Meanwhile, the visiting Turkmen minister of culture and tourism, Geldymurad Nurmukhamedov, in a meeting with Iran's culture and Islamic guidance minister, 'Ali Larijani, today expressed hope for fruitful cooperation with Iran in the fields of culture and art including press, tourism, sports as well as radio and television.

Larijani in return expressed readiness to speed up bilateral negotiations in order to sign a protocol for establishment of four commissions for expanding cooperation in the fields of religion, culture, art, sports and tourism.

He also expressed Iran's willingness to sign a cultural protocol with Turkmenistan.

Meanwhile Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov heading a delegation arrived in Tehran today for a five-day visit and was welcomed by Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Iranian ministers of foreign affairs, finance and economic affairs, road and transport, the interior, agriculture, and culture and Islamic guidance.

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Arrives, Comments

LD2912131793 Tehran IRNA in English 1150 GMT 29 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 29, IRNA— Azeri Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov heading a delegation arrived here Wednesday [29 December] and was greeted by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Gasanov told IRNA at the airport that the objective of his visit was to exchange views with Iranian officials on holy places in Karabakh demolished by Armenian forces.

Gasanov noted that the Armenian forces have strenghtened their positions in Karabakh and rejected Azeri proposals to evacuate the occupied areas.

"We are confident that the Armenians are not willing to solve the dispute through peaceful means," said the Azeri minister.

Regretting the demolition of holy places, including several mosques in the occupied territories, Gasanov urged Iran to join his country in following up the matter in the next summit meet of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Velayati said the commonalities between Iran and Azerbaijan required exchange of higher level visits at closer intervals.

The belligerent sides as well as the neighboring countries should take measures to end the regretful war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Velayati said.

Following up the letters of understanding signed between the two sides during President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's trip to Baku, regional cooperation especially at Caspian Sea as well as economic coopevation are among topics discussed between Gasanov and Iranian officials.

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2912175193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 29 Dec 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this afternoon received Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov of Azerbaijan. In the meeting, the president expressed concern over the fate of the people of Azerbaijan, especially those who live in the war-hit areas. He said: The war that is currently in progress in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the border between Azerbaijan and Armenia cannot be justified by any international norms and conventions, and fanning the flames of this war will not be in the interests of any country in the region or the world. The president stressed: The atrocious living conditions of the women and children refugees of Azerbaijan in the cold areas on the borders make it absolutely necessary that international organizations pay greater attention to the fate of these people.

Moreover, Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the fact that from the early days of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Iran had foreseen its bitter consequences and made efforts to find a peaceful solution to the dispute. He added: At present, too, on the basis of its humanitarian principles, the Islamic Republic of Iran has provided shelter on the border areas to thousands of oppressed and helpless Azerbaijani refugees. Iran has done all it can to remedy the suffering of these refugees, and will continue to do so.

In this meeting, Gasanov, in turn, expressed the gratitude of the president, government, and the people of Azerbaijan for the humanitarian aid given to the Azeri refugees by the government and nation of Iran. Furthermore, he presented a report about the latest developments in Azerbaijan, particularly the crisis areas on the border with Armenia.

Earlier today, Gasanov also met and conferred with our country's foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Armenian Minister Sends Velayati Note on Karabakh

LD0101113494 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA—Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan said that Iran plays a significant role in settlement of the Karabakh issue between Azerbaijan and Armenia through peaceful means.

In a letter to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Papazyan noted that Iran enjoyed experience in domestic and foreign political scenes and expressed hope that, through continued Iranian efforts, talks between the two warring sides would come to fruition.

Stressing the significance of establishing peace and stability in the region, the Armenian minister termed his country's stand in Karabakh dispute as "peaceful".

Referring to the latest developments in the Karabakh region, Papazyan attached importance to Iran-Armenia friendly ties and added that such relations are indispensable for settlement of the Karabakh dispute and restoring peace and tranquility in the region.

Gas Company Denies Plans To Supply Armenia

LD3012133893 Tehran IRNA in English 1243 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 30, IRNA—The National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) on Thursday [30 December] denied a report by Azerbaijan's unofficial news agency that Iran is planning to send natural gas to Armenia through building a gas pipeline.

The news agency on Tuesday, quoting Armenian sources, claimed that recently a delegation from NIGC travelled to Armenia and held talks with the Armenian vice-president on building the pipeline.

The agency further claimed that the preliminaries for signing an agreement over the issue has been concluded and that it will be signed by the two sides by next April.

The NIGC added that it had discussed exporting Iranian natural gas with some of the newly-independent Central Asian republics including Azerbaijan and Armenia, but at at present it has no intention of exporting gas to Armenia.

Uzbek Minister Meets Official, Views Ties

LD3012114893 Tehran IRNA in English 1022 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 30, IRNA—Uzbek Foreign Minister Qasemov [name as received] Wednesday [29 December] underlined the importance of Tehran-Tashkent ties and called for further dynamism of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and cooperation among its member states.

Qasemov made the remark in a meeting with the visiting director general for Western Asia at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Mir Mahmud Musavi. During the meeting, Musavi handed over a message from Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati inviting his Uzbek counterpart to take part in the forthcoming ministerial meeting of ECO, scheduled here next month.

Qasemov expressed hope that the ministerial meeting would take effective steps to materialize agreements so far reached in the framework of ECO. The two side also discussed ways to bolster Tehran-Tashkent bilateral relations.

Foreign Ministry Offers Aid on Kabul Fighting

LD0101112294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] In light of the fierce clashes taking place in Kabul since early today, the spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry spoke to our correspondent, expressing deep regret at the occurrence of such clashes and calling on the warring sides to end the bloodshed as soon as possible and solve their problems peacefully.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman announced the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to help end the clashes.

Afghanistan Facing 'New Catastrophe'

LD0201123194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1053 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Reports received from various news sources indicate heavy clashes between jehadi groups in Afghanistan. The severity of the fighting and the volume and types of arms used show that the fighting is unprecedented since the conquest of Kabul and the fall of Najibollah's regime. Also, the inhuman dimensions of the fighting—shelling of residential areas, hospitals, and even safe areas such as embassies—are proof that hostilities have gone beyond their usual, controllable state and have put Afghanistan on the brink of a new catastrophe.

The recent clashes come when diplomatic efforts are under way to end the internal crisis in Afghanistan. Unfortunately, the clashes plunge the horizon for peace into uncertainty.

Each of the jehadi groups considers the unfair distribution of power in Afghanistan to be the cause of the fighting. The Afghan Mojahedin, who successfully put a 14-year-long holy war behind them and have managed to put on show one of the most brilliant victories, are now finding difficulty in consolidating sovereignty. The main Afghan difficulty in this respect is the lack of unified leadership, which is acceptable by all parties and groups. That problem resulted in bloody clashes right from the beginning of the mojahedin coming to power, without the battles putting an end to the crisis. It would seem that two years of bloody fighting—which have left nothing but destruction in Afghanistan—would be a good experience for those political and military Afghan groups that seek to resolve the crisis through military means.

The balance of power among the groups and the rapid change in alliances and coalitions prevent progress through military means. Political analysts believe that peace and tranquillity will not return to Kabul unless the Afghan jehadi groups put the interests of their state and people before factional interests and choose a peaceful path, put down their arms and arm themselves instead with the weapon of logic, and then embark on instituting a constitution.

The history of world movements and revolutions shows the constitution in any state to be one of its main pillars and guarantees its survival. The constitution must be formulated by the votes of all the people of Afghanistan. Only in such a situation can one hope for future peace and tranquillity there. Therefore, if the Afghan political and military groups do not quickly pave the way for talks in order to control the current crisis, opportunists will impose conditions from outside on the pretext of supporting human rights and establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan. In that case the real loser will be the Afghan nation and the 14-year-old aspirations of their holy jihad will be threatened.

Dailies Urge Mediation

LD0301111294 Tehran IRNA in English 1047 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 3, IRNA—Two Iranian dailies Monday [3 January] commented in their editorials on the current clashes in Kabul and called for mediations to end the fighting which is going to root out the nation's properties.

The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' called for an immediate summit meeting of regional countries including Iran, Pakistan and some others with influence in Afghanistan.

It said that the meet would be aimed to "chalk out a plan for free and fair elections which is a must and that many believe can silence the guns."

The editorial considered as insufficient whatever the neighboring countries have done so far to bring peace to the country stressing that "a concrete step should be taken."

The Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' said that impartial people who are trusted by the Afghan nation should enter the scene to narrow the gap in the viewpoints of the jihad groups and to extinguish the flames of wrath which would eliminate the properties of the Afghan nation.

It also expressed surprise that some of the jihad groups have shown such a strong will to remove their rivals.

Embassy Denies Pressuring France on Deportations

LD0101211394 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1800 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] We have not put any pressure on France: these are the words of the communique published this afternoon by the Iranian Embassy in Paris after the deportation to Tehran of two Iranians, whose extradition had been requested by Switzerland.

Contacts With Greek 'Terrorist' Group Denied

LD0201220394 Tehran IRNA in English 2021 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan 2, IRNA—An official of Iran's Foreign Ministry has denied the allegation that the Islamic Republic of Iran has had any contact with November 17th group, a terrorist group in Greece.

Director General of the Department of Western European Affairs at the Foreign Ministery, Ali Ahani, today denied the Italian daily CORRIERRE DELLA SERA's recent report on Iran's alleged contacts with certain members of a Greek terrorist group known as "November 17th".

Ahani made the remark in a meeting with Greek charge d'affaires to Tehran, Ioannis Pediotis.

The two sides also discussed expansion of Tehran-Athens relations.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes India-Pakistan Talks

LD0201135694 Tehran IRNA in English 1325 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes talks between Pakistan and India, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said here today.

He said the talks being held in Islamabad, can help remove the existing tension in the Islamabad-New Delhi ties and lead to restoration of peace and stability in the region.

He also expressed hope that the talks on mutual ties between the two countries as well as on the Kashmir issue would have "fruitful" results.

Commentary: Israel Will Not Abide by Agreements

LD3012212693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] The second round of talks between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations which was held in Cairo has concluded.

While several differences between the two sides continue to remain unresolved, the delegations have returned to Tunisia and occupied Palestine in order to consult with their leaders.

The Zionist regime foreign minister, Shim'on Peres, who headed the Israeli delegation at the Cairo talks, says that certain proposals regarding three basic differences mainly the area of Ariha [Jericho], the issue of controlling the passages, and the security issues have been offered to the Palestinian delegation and that is now up to the Palestinian leaders to accept or to reject them.

On the other hand the Palestinian officials say that the proposals put forward by the Israeli delegation do not fulfill even the minimum of the Palestinians' requirements and that Israel is not willing to accept the handing over to Egypt and Jordan the control of the passages in the Gaza-Jericho regions and the area of Jericho.

The presentation of such contradictory viewpoints undoubtedly speak of the basic differences between the two sides that have not yet been removed. This is at a time when the Tel Aviv regime and the Egyptian leaders are trying to project the trend of the talks as positive and constructive covering the deep differences present between the two sides.

There are three main issues over which the Israeli and Palestinian delegates differ. According to a document presented by the Palestinians, Jericho has an area of 342 sq km; that is the area of the Jericho region prior to the occupation of the West Bank in 1967. The Zionist regime says that the region has an area of 25 sq km, and Shim'on Peres' proposal to the Palestinians has doubled it to 50 sq km. On the control of the border regions too, the only solution which Israel offers is that certain border regions should be jointly controlled under the supervision of the two sides. But on the security issues and the Jewish settlements the Tel Aviv officials say that they will give no concessions to the Palestinians.

Under the current circumstances it seems that despite the fact that main differences between the two sides have remained unresolved, the Zionist regime and certain Arab countries such as Egypt on the one hand want the talks to continue and on the other project the differences and the obstacles created by the Zionist regime as minor. This is at a time when the presidents of Syria and the United States are expected to have a meeting in mid-January.

Undoubtedly deadlock in the talks between the Palestinians and the Zionist regime will not be to the benefit of the Tel Aviv officials who were seeking separate deals with each of the other sides.

At any rate this time too, despite the optimism being shown in connection with the Cairo talks, it is fully clear that against any concessions given to the Palestinian delegation by Israel, it will try to get a far bigger concession from them and world opinion will once again witness the fact that the usurper regime of Israel does not implement the agreement that it has itself signed.

Vatican Recognition Criticized

LD3112202893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dispatches report that late Thursday December 30, the Zionist regime and Vatican signed an agreement on political ties and establishing diplomatic relations between them.

The Israeli deputy foreign minister, Yosi Beilin, and his Vatican counterpart, Bishop Claudio Celli, signed this documents which has 15 articles.

This said agreement will become official after its ratification by the parliament of the Zionist regime and pope, the leader of the world Catholics. The two sides will then exchange ambassadors.

The signing of this agreement between Vatican and the Zionist regime is considered by political analysts as an important development in Vatican's policy toward Israel.

Following the end of the war of oil in the Persian Gulf and the beginning of Middle East peace talks, Vatican started extensive efforts to have presence in these talks.

However, the Zionist regime had set establishment of official relations as a condition for Vatican's presence in the talks.

Nevertheless the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the two sides was an obstacle in view of Vatican's policy toward the Zionist regime.

Vatican, too, considered the implementation of the 1947 UN resolution in which the international administration of Bayt al-Muqaddas [Jerusalem] had been envisaged as the prerequisite for establishing relations with Israel.

However, international conditions over the past couple of years have been such that Vatican seems to have withdrawn from its position.

In the document signed by Vatican and the Zionist regime, no reference has been made to Bayt al-Muqaddas, while Vatican has rejected the issue of Jesus Christ's betrayal by the Jews.

In this relation the spokesman of Vatican, while referring to the unnecessary nature of the implementation of the UN resolution, stressed that the Catholic Church no longer supports UN resolutions on Bayt al-Muqaddas.

In the meantime, in the document signed by Vatican and Israel, the question of freedom of religion in harmony with the laws of the Jewish state has been envisaged. Nevertheless this issue has not reduced worries that the Jewish state may treat Christian sects from a superior position.

On this basis, recognition of Israel by Vatican has caused a negative reaction among Christian sects with the retreat of Vatican policy toward the issue.

In the meantime, although the White House has welcomed Vatican's recognition of the Zionist regime, this issue has been condemned by the opposition Palestinian organizations and parties.

The two Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine in a joint statement have announced that under the conditions that the suppression of the Palestinian nation still continues, this recognition will not help to end Palestinian and Arab territories' occupation by the Zionist regime.

Political analysts believe that in the view of the nature of the Zionist regime and the Jewish state's performance since the occupation of Palestine, which are based on superiority of Jews, religious discrimination, and rejection of other religious minorities and faiths, recognition of Israel by Vatican is considered as a mere political move and one can not conceive any worthy role for Vatican in this connection.

U.S., UN Seen 'Pressuring' North Korea

NC3012152093 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Dec 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Ban Nuclear Weapons"]

[Text] United Nations Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has just visited Pyongyang, capital of North Korea.

Lately the United States has been pressuring international agencies to persuade North Korea to allow inspection of its facilities and has even threatened to nuke North Korea if they ever built and used one. Butrus-Ghali was on a mission to intercede between the U.S. and North Korea. North Korea has not accepted the International Atomic Energy Agency's request to inspect its facilities and considers its nuclear activitis to be peaceful and regards U.S. attempts as bullying moves of intimidation.

What is unfortunate is that the secretary general of the United Nations is putting himself at the disposal of one of its members, namely the United States.

This is an important and opportune occasion (the birth of Jesus Christ); the secretary general should have considered other places. For instance, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina cries for intervention of an international body. Butrus-Ghali could have visited Serbia to put pressure on Serbs to end the genocide and massacre of innocent people.

The question of nuclear weapons should worry any conscientious individual. Weapons of such destructive powers are no toys for any military. Only the United States has used this weapon (in World War II). The Islamic Republic of Iran has maintained that its nuclear activities are peaceful and representatives of international agencies have repeatedly confirmed this.

Governments with nuclear capability claim to be stable and promise to take measures to control its military use. The former Soviet Union was such a stable government. When President Reagan was shot, the confusion in the White House as to "Who is in control!" testified to another stable government.

Conscientious individuals in the world have been rallying to ban nuclear weapons. Iran also believes that since nuclear weapons are dangerous and destructive, and that they could get out of control and create a world disaster, no country should have them.

No End in Sight to U.S.-DPRK 'Crisis'

LD0201095894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Some optimistic analysts say that the recent agreement between Washington and Pyongyang is a positive step toward improving ties and believe that the direction of the negotiations is toward the resolution of the crisis on the Korean peninsula.

But other analysts, who look deeper into issues, believe that despite such an agreement still no clear outlook can be seen in the U.S.-North Korean relations and no end can be seen to the crisis in the Korean peninsula. Those analysts believe that the strain in ties between America and North Korea does not end with the issues of the inspection of the North Korean nuclear installations and ending of the U.S.-South Korean military maneuvers. The problem is that America, within the framework of the theory of the new world order, does not want any country but those which support U.S. interests to have access to nuclear arms. At the same time, North Korea believes that this American strategy is against its security and national interests.

A more worrying point is that there are still a number of the so-called minor differences that could expand into bigger differences in the two countries' relations at any moment.

Pyongyang is concerned that after the inspection of the North Korean nuclear installations, Washington will continue its hostile policies to bring North Korea in line with U.S. policies, as it has done in the case of many other countries. For example, the International Atomic Energy Agency has repeatedly inspected Iranian nuclear installations and has assessed its inspections as positive and believes that Iran is using nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes. Yet at the same time, America has repeatedly accused Iran of using it for military purposes.

Pessimism over the agreements reached between Washington and Pyongyang became more evident when North Korean President Kim Il-sung yesterday announced that even though such agreements can solve the existing differences on North Korean nuclear plans to a certain extent, any kind of pressure or intimidation by America can end in disaster. Such a warning is a reply to developments that may take place during the agreement or afterward. This comes at a time when Sam Nunn, the chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, announced during a recent television interview that if North Korea insists on keeping its nuclear weapons America will put North Korea in such political and military isolation that after a time all its economy and regime will collapse. Such an announcement, even as a mere threat, shows how the existence of a socialist country with an anti-American nature cannot be easily tolerated by Washington.

In any case, the insistence of the two sides on keeping their positions has so far prevented the achievement of a final solution to the existing differences, and as long as America does not respond positively to requests made by North Korea, it seems unlikely that an agreement can be easily reached, particularly as during the nine months of crisis in the relations between America and North Korea relations, Pyongyang has shown the necessary flexibility.

Refugees From Iraqi Marshes Entering Country

LD3012112893 Tehran IRNA in English 2021 GMT 29 Dec 93

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec. 29, IRNA—114 more Iraqis residing in marshlands in southern Iraq entered Iranian region of Hur ol-Hoveyzeh in this southern province Tuesday [28 December]. The refugees said that the southern marshlands of Iraq were extremely insecure for the marshlanders because of the continuing attacks by the Iraqi Army.

'Ali 'Ubayd, from al-'Amarah, said that more Iraqis were moving towards Iran due to artillery attacks of the Iraqi forces on the marshlanders. Rahim Ja'far Qathan, from al-Basrah, said that the 4th division of Iraqi Army deployed in the marshlands had destroyed and set afire numerous residential units in the marshes including 150 houses in al-Basrah. Another refugee, Nazim Sarhan also from al-'Amarah, remarked that the Iraqi forces had moved inhabitants of the villages to unknown places after demolishing their houses.

He noted that the Iraqi Army tortured the marshlanders and added that there was no information on what happened to the people arrested by Iraqi forces.

Meanwile, the governor of Dasht-e Azadegan city in Khuzestan Province, said that new facilities had been allocated to house 1,300 Iraqi refugees now living in this area. The refugees are now suffering from the shortage of foodstuffs and medicine.

Number Reaches 1,250

LD0101125994 Tehran IRNA in English 0913 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Dezful, Khuzestan Province, Jan. 1, IRNA—The number of Iraqi refugees entering Iran through Hur Al-Hoveyzeh border region reached 1,250, a provincial official said here Saturday [1 January].

Another 24 Iraqi families arrived in the region during the past few days, an official of the provincial Red Crescent Soceity, Seyed Ahmadi, told IRNA.

According to him, the Red Crescent Society has provided the refugees with relief supplies but due to their increasing number more assistance is needed.

The number of Iraqi refugees seeking shelter in Iran has increased during the past three months as Iraqi forces have stepped up attacks against southern marsh Arabs.

Iranians Also Returning

LD0301142394 Tehran IRNA in English 1359 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan. 3, IRNA—One hundred Iranians residing in Iraq have crossed the border into the country via Khuzestan over the past nine months.

An informed source said here today that more and more Iranians were coming home from Iraq through Khuzestan. He said permission to return home was issued after necessary interrogations.

The group were the Arab citizens of Dasht-e Azadegan region here in this province kidnapped by Iraqi forces at the outset of the Iraqi imposed war (1980-88).

He put the number of those kidnapped at 5,000.

Most of the Iranians hold no identification card and are in need of accommodation and living requirements, the official said.

Jannati Leads Prayers, Urges Obeying Khamene'i

LD3112114593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] With the participation of the God-seeking masses, devoted to the pure rites of Muhammad, may peace be upon him and his scion, the Friday prayers were staged today throughout the country.

Ayatollah [hmad Jannati led the Friday prayers in Tehran, and expressed his condolences on the anniversary of the demise of Her Holiness Zaynab [daughter of first Shiite imam], may peace be upon her. He then set out to describe highlights of her fruitful life and her services as the disseminator of the liberating message of the uprising by Imam Husayn.

In his second sermon, the acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran referred to the start of the new Christian year, and criticized the Vatican for its recognition of the Zionist regime. He expressed hope that world powers and organizations which consider themselves Christians will review their past behavior and refrain from displaying a coercive and criminal attitude toward innocent people.

Tehran's Friday prayer preacher then described the saddening living conditions of the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in particular during the winter, and paid tribute to their continued resistance to attacks by the aggressors. He called for more help from the Islamic world for the Muslim people of Bosnia.

Ayatollah Jannati then alluded to parts of the remarks graciously made by the eminent leader [Khamene'i] in his meeting with the members of the Assembly of Experts [on 29 December]. He said: In view of the spiritual and divine status of the position of leadership in society, who like divine prophets shoulder the responsibility of guiding the people toward Islamic values and of safeguarding the general interests of Islamic societies, the people must fully obey the eminent leader with utmost love and sincerity. In this way the might of Islam and the Muslims may be enhanced even further, especially in the face of conspiracies hatched by the enemies.

He then referred to Grand Ayatollah Araki and expressed satisfaction at the concentration of marja'iyat [status of being a source of emulation] in him.

In another part of his second sermon, the acting Tehran Friday prayers leader tribute to the personality of Mr. Hashemi- Rafsanjani and his valuable services, and considered him as a unique personality. He then asked the Almighty to grant ever-increasing success to our country's president.

Furthermore, Tehran's Friday prayer preacher enumerated the government's infrastructural policies aimed at reforming the country's economic structure. He stressed the need to pay tribute to all the steps taken by the government, and at the same time to speak out about existing problems in a sincere manner and suggest solutions for them. Ayatollah Jannati also referred to the emphasis placed by the eminent leader on the need to reduce consumption and increase production so as to improve the country's economic conditions. Following on this, he called on the people and the officials to refrain from waste and to have consideration for the the low-income groups. He also considered that firm but just confrontation of offenders is a factor capable of strengthening the Islamic system of our country.

In conclusion Ayatollah Jannati praised the country's officials for their efforts to stage events for Book Week. He said: The spread of the culture of book reading will bring growth and progress to the society.

Friday Prayers in Qom

LD3112164493

[Editorial Report] Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian begins broadcasting Friday prayers in Qom at 1529 GMT on 31 December, led by Ayatollah Amini, lecturer at the theological school and a senior member of the Assembly of Experts.

In his first sermon, Amini speaks on the various aspects of Shi'ite leadership and the source of emulation, including the meaning of religious judgment, the need for religious leaders, and conditions for the post.

He says that there are hundreds of capable individuals at theological schools who could be sources of emulation, but have failed to do so because they are more interested in teaching. He calls on them to formulate religious laws in all fields, particularly social affairs.

Amini says he supports the recent statement by Qom's theological scholars approving Ayatollah Araki's position as the source of emulation after the death of Ayatollah Golpayegani.

In his second sermon, which begins at at 1556 GMT, he speaks on the spiritual and social life of first Shi'ite Imam Ali.

The second sermon ends at 1610 GMT.

Musavi-Ardebili Hospitalized After Stroke

LD3012141393 Tehran IRNA in English 1355 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 30, IRNA—Prominent Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardebili has been hospitalized in Tehran after suffering a stroke. The 70-year-old ayatollah was first taken to the late Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani Hospital in the holy city of Qom after complaining of chest pain and headache during a visit to Mofid University in the city Tuesday night. Mas'ud Musavi, the son of the former chief justice, said that his father's left arm and leg have been paralyzed as a result of apoplexy.

The doctors treating Ayatollah Ardebili at Tehran's Khatem ol- Anbia hospital, where the ayatollah was later taken, said they expect the ayatollah to fully recover in a week.

Talking to reporters, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili said he was feeling well. Ayatollah Ardebili, also a substitute Friday prayer leader of Tehran, is the founder and chancellor of Mofid University. He also teaches at the Qom theological school.

It is the second time the ayatollah has suffered a stroke. He first fell ill nearly two years ago. Since the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Ardebili has served as a member of the Revolutionary Council, prosecutor general, head of the High Judicial Council and chief justice.

Condition Improves

LD0301113894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardebeli, the substitute Friday Imam of Tehran who has been hospitalized after suffering a stroke, is feeling better. In view of the improvement in his general condition, the medical team have expressed the hope that he will be released from hospital within the next few days.

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Comments on Bhutto Visits

BK3112155993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said that the prime minister's visits to China and the DPRK were successful and the leaders of the two countries have agreed to expand cooperation with Pakistan in various fields. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, he said the leaders of the two countries emphasized effective cooperation in the defense field. He said China and the DPRK appreciate Pakistan's stand on the Jammu and Kashmir issue and have expressed sympathy with the Kashmiris for their hardships under Indian occupation.

The foreign minister said the Chinese leaders categorically stated that the Sino-Pakistani friendship is a model friendship that has withstood every test of time, and that the ties between the two countries will always enjoy special significance. The Chinese leaders assured the prime minister that the improvement in Sino-Indian relations will not affect the special relationship between Pakistan and China. The foreign minister added that the leaders of China and Pakistan enjoy total unanimity and understanding on major international and regional issues, and the two countries have agreed to work toward a new international order based on the principles of the UN Charter. The two countries have also agreed to oppose hegemony at the global and regional levels, because this is the root cause of expansionism and regional and racial tensions.

The foreign minister said the prime minister apprised the Chinese leaders of the atrocities and human rights violations committed by Indian forces, which have intensified since the two countries agreed to hold talks at the level of foreign secretary. He said the prime minister called for tangible steps to end the repression and violence. He said Pakistan wants to reduce tension in the region by resolving the Kashmir dispute through negotiations. The foreign minister added that the Chinese leaders appreciated Pakistan's stand and welcomed the foreign secretarial-level talks.

The foreign minister said the prime minister briefed the Chinese leaders on Pakistani-U.S. relations and the negative effects of the Pressler Amendment. He said Pakistan favors nuclear nonproliferation at the global and regional levels, and referred to Pakistan's proposal for a five-nation conference. He said the Chinese leaders fully appreciate the Pakistani proposal.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said that Pakistan supports China on the missile issue, and asserted that the supply of Chinese missiles to Pakistan did not violate the principles of the Missile Technology Control Regime. The Pakistani side highlighted the importance of the Karkoram Highway and supported the Chinese stand on Tibet, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

In reply to another question, the foreign minister said that the PRC has expressed deep grief and concern over the serious human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and the atrocities being carried out there. They expressed sympathy with the Kashmiri people and supported the Pakistani stand on the Kashmir issue. The Chinese leaders assured Pakistan that they will help Pakistan whenever needed.

On Ms. Benazir Bhutto's visit to Korea, the foreign minister said that the prime minister and the DPRK president exchanged views on global and regional issues. The DPRK supported the Pakistani stand on the Kashmir issue and the relevant UN resolutions. He said that Pakistan hopes that the differences between the DPRK and other countries will be resolved peacefully.

Secretary-Level Talks With India Begin

Kashmir Debate Could End Dialogue

BK3112145293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Pakistan and India meet in Islamabad on Sunday in a bid to resolve the Kashmir issue. The foreign secretaries of the two countries will have two days of parleys to negotiate comprehensively on all aspects of Jammu and Kashmir issue, besides other bilateral matters. The Indian foreign secretary is reaching Islamabad tomorrow. Pakistan Television diplomatic correspondent says this is for the first time that India has explicitly agreed to place the Kashmir issue on the agenda of talks. Pakistan on its part has always been raising the Kashmir issue during previous high-level talks between the two countries, while India always tried to avoid the question.

In Islamabad, a Foreign Office spokesman has said the forthcoming talks with India will be the final round of formal dialogue between the two countries if New Delhi shows no flexibility on the Kashmir dispute. He told reporters yesterday that there will be no more formal talks on bilateral relations if the Indians fail to come with concrete proposals on Kashmir. Pakistan, the spokesman said, is willing to discuss nuclear and other issues with India only if it shows serious interest in resolving the dispute over the occupied valley. Kashmir, he added, is the flash point and there can be no peace in the region if it is not resolved. While agreeing on the forthcoming talks, Pakistan had asked India to end the siege of Hazratbal Shrine and stop human rights violations in occupied Kashmir to make the secretaries-level talks meaningful. Our correspondent says though the siege of Hazratbal Shrine was lifted on the 16th of last month, the flagrant human right violations have been continuing unabated.

Foreign Office sources say Pakistan wishes to reiterate that continuing escalation of repression by the Indian troops and paramilitary forces in Jammu and Kashmir is a source of most serious concern and anguish for the people and the government of Pakistan. During the talks, the sources said, the Pakistani side would urge India to concede to the wishes of the people of Kashmir and grant them their inalienable right of self-determination—a promise it had made but denied to them since 1947.

The Foreign Office spokesman said Pakistan will find it extremely difficult to continue this sterile process of dialogue if India fails to respond to the aspirations of the people of Kashmir. If there is no progress, Pakistan would take the matter before the international community and tell the world to resolve the explosive situation, the spokesman added.

In the light of the secretary-level talks between Pakistan and India on Kashmir, the members of the Kashmir Committee of the National Assembly and prominent Kashmiri leaders were briefed about the government's position. Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali told the committee members that Pakistan's stand on Kashmir had always been clear. It supports Kashmiris' right to self-determination and their ongoing struggle for this inalienable right. Pakistan wants the implementation of the UN resolutions on Kashmir because it understands that peace in the region will remain elusive unless this dispute is resolved. The chairman of the National Assembly's Kashmir Committee, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan; the president and prime minister of AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir]; president of the People's Party of AJK; President of Muslim League of AJK; President of Liberation League of AJK; and acting president of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front attended the briefing.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has described the Pakistan-India foreign secretary-level talks scheduled on Sunday in Islamabad as a step to find out a political and amicable solution to the decades-long Kashmir issue. Talking to newsmen in Akora Khattak, the president said this is a political forum available to us and we want to use it. Pakistan wants that the Kashmiris should be given their birthright of self-determination in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations. Pakistan has always condemned Indian brutalities against the innocent Kashmiris and it would continue to extend moral and political support to them. President Leghari regretted that Indian atrocities have reached their peak and there is no precedence of such brutalities in the entire history of mankind. He said the strength of the Indian forces has crossed the figure of 500,000 in occupied Kashmir. The president said the world pressure on India for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue is also building up.

Foreign Minister Cites Conditions

BK0101103794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has put forward certain conditions for the continuance of the India-Pakistan dialogue on Kashmir, because India has weakened the atmosphere in spite of the formal understanding between the two countries to improve the situation in occupied Kashmir. He said Pakistan considers fulfillment of some of the conditions to be imperative—the reduction in the forces in occupied Kashmir, the release of Kashmiri leaders, and an end to brutal repression—for the continuation of the dialogue. The foreign minister stated this at a news conference in Islamabad yesterday, during which he commented on the upcoming India-Pakistan foreign secretary-level talks on the Kashmir issue beginning in Islamabad on 2 January. He said that massacre, molestation of women, and the burning of villages all continue in occupied Kashmir with no abatement of Indian brutalities there.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said that during the next round of negotiations, comprehensive and detailed discussions will be held on the Kashmir issue and Pakistan will approach the talks with the utmost sincerity in spite of the grave situation prevailing in the occupied valley, because Islamabad believes in the negotiated settlement of this problem. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to hold talks on all aspects of the Kashmir question and said, unlike New Delhi, Islamabad will fulfill its commitment. India had a long time to improve the situation in occupied Kashmir, and if New Delhi does not take steps to improve the situation in the valley, there is no use holding negotiations on the issue.

The foreign minister clarified that Pakistan has not asked China to play the role of intermediary between India and Pakistan. He added that China has expressed profound grief and concern at the atrocities and violation of human rights committed by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir. China, he said, has welcomed the upcoming foreign secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan.

Foreign Minister 'Not Optimistic'

BK0101143294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] The two-day secretary-level talks between Pakistan and India begin in Islamabad tomorrow. The Kashmir issue will be an independent item on the agenda of the talks which will be spread over four sessions as India has agreed to discuss all aspects of the problem.

Authorities in Islamabad are not optimistic about the outcome of the talks, for India has not so far stopped repression against the people of Kashmir in the occupied territory. Pakistan had asked India to end human right violations in occupied Kashmir immediately and to reduce its troops in the valley, leading to a total withdrawal, in order to create a conducive atmosphere for holding the talks.

The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has said with all the killings going on in occupied Kashmir, with women being raped, with villages being set on fire, and with the repression going on, how can one feel optimism. He said this is the last opportunity for New Delhi to prove that it is sincere in solving the Kashmir issue through negotiations. If India, he added, fails to take even the minimum steps, then it is its last chance for the talks. Pakistan would not hold any further talks and instead take up the issue at international forums and inform its friends that New Delhi is not sincere in solving the issue. Pakistan, the foreign minister said, is taking part in the talks so that India could not say that Pakistan is avoiding a negotiated settlement of the issue. We believe negotiations are the most civilized manner to settle disputes.

Commenting on the claim of the Indian foreign minister that Kashmir is an integral part of India, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said on the one hand India had accepted Kashmir as a disputed territory and agreed to hold talks on the issue as a separate agenda, while, on the other hand, it is claiming that Kashmir is its integral part. One can judge the sincerity of the Indians in holding these talks and solving the problem, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said.

Indian Foreign Secretary Arrives

BK0201035894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] The seventh round of secretary-level talks between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir issue begins in Islamabad today. At the talks, the Pakistani delegation will be led by the foreign secretary, Dr. Shaharyar M. Khan. The Indian side will be led by its foreign secretary, J.N. Dixit. The Indian foreign secretary arrived in Islamabad last night with a four-member delegation to participate in the talks.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport, Mr. Dixit said Kashmir is an outstanding issue between Pakistan and India and both sides will seriously discuss it in view of its significance. Replying to queries of newsmen, he said there might be differences in the perceptions of the two countries. They, however, will make efforts to understand each other's points of view and to narrow down differences on the Kashmir issue. Asked whether there will be a discussion on the issue of holding a plebiscite in Kashmir, Dixit said both sides can raise questions according to their stand on the issue. When he was asked whether both sides will exchange views on resolving the Kashmir issue along the lines of autonomy granted to the Palestinians in the Gaza territory, the Indian foreign secretary said it depends upon the nations concerned. If they learn lessons and experiences from history, it will be better for them. Mr. Dixit refused to say whether he has brought a new proposal for the seventh round of talks. He said there is no program to involve Kashmiri representatives at the current round of talks.

Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M. Khan, who will lead the Pakistani delegation, said Pakistan is glad that India agreed to hold talks on all aspects of the Kashmir issue. He said both sides will consider the issue with seriousness. He expressed the hope that there would be progress at the talks between the two sides.

Radio Pakistan's diplomatic representative says Pakistan and India expressed their readiness to resume secretary-level talks to discuss all outstanding issues, including all aspects of the Kashmir issue, last November. The previous round of talks was held in New Delhi in August 1992. Pakistan is expected to urge India to honor the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and pave the way for a plebiscite in the area to find out their opinion in accordance with the UN Security Council.

It is expected that Dixit will also call on President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali.

Dixit Leaves for Karachi

BK0201084094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] The first round of talks between the foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India on Kashmir and other related issues was held at the Foreign Office in Islamabad this morning. After the first round, the Indian foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, and his Pakistani counter, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, left for Karachi where the Indian foreign secretary will call on the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, this afternoon. Another round of talks between the two foreign secretaries will be held tonight. Earlier, the Indian foreign secretary called on the president, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari. A Foreign Office spokesman told our representative that the president reiterated Pakistan's desire for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute which is the core problem between Pakistan and India. The president urged India to end its repression in occupied Kashmir.

Bhutto Receives Indian Secretary

BK0201151994 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] The secretary-level talks between Pakistan and India began in Islamabad today. Foreign Secretary Mr. Shaharyar Khan is leading the Pakistani side, while the Indian delegation is headed by the external affairs secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit. Quoting Foreign Office sources, Pakistan Television diplomatic correspondent says during the four rounds of talks, the Pakistani side would endeavor to focus attention on all aspects of the Kashmir dispute as already agreed to by New Delhi in order to find out a negotiated and peaceful settlement of the problem. Our correspondent says Pakistan has been calling upon India to stop repression and atrocities in the occupied territory and make visible improvement on the ground in the valley in order to ensure continuation of dialogue in a positive direction. Other issues relating to bilateral matters may also be taken up during the talks. Additional foreign secretary, Mr. Munir Akram, who is taking part in the talks, spoke to Pakistan Television about the first round of talks.

[Begin Akram recording] So far the talks have started on a note of seriousness and both the president and the foreign secretary have underlined our desire for a peaceful solution of the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir on the basis of the resolutions of the United Nations. The talks have so far focused on Kashmir, and we have had a first round of reiteration of the positions of the two sides. We have also underlined the need to create propitious conditions for the search for a peaceful solution and the necessity for an end to the repression in Kashmir for the creation of such conditions. [end recording]

The Indian foreign secretary called on President Farooq Ahmad Leghari at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President House] today and discussed with him matters of bilateral interests. Referring to the foreign secretary-level bilateral talks, the president wished them all success. The president told Mr. Dixit that Pakistan is very keen to see a just and honorable solution of the Kashmir problem, but there is a great deal of anguish over the suppression of human rights in the occupied valley. The Indian foreign secretary said he has come to Pakistan with concrete ideas and with a will to move forward. Mr. Dixit also conveyed to the president greetings and best wishes from the Indian president and the prime minister.

Mr. J.N. Dixit also called on Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto in Karachi today. Welcoming the Indian foreign secretary, the prime minister said she is glad that the secretary-level talks have resumed after a gap of 15 months. She reaffirmed Pakistan's position on Kashmir and asked the Indian foreign secretary to take visible steps regarding improvement of human rights situation in the occupied Kashmir. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that the secretary-level talks are being held at an important juncture of India-Pakistan relations and needed to demonstrate positive results. The Indian foreign secretary conveyed the good wishes of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and said that he has come to Pakistan to discuss basic issues seriously with a view to making progress in the India-Pakistan bilateral relations. He expressed the hope that progress would be possible as a result of this bilateral contact between the two countries. Present at the meeting was Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M. Khan; Indian high commissioner, Mr. S.K. Lamba; and the Pakistani high commissioner in India, Mr. Riaz Khokhar.

Dixit Terms Talks 'Satisfactory'

BK0301035294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] The second round of talks between the foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India was held in Islamabad last night. Both sides held detailed talks on all aspects of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The Pakistani delegation is being led by Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M. Khan and the Indian side by his Indian counterpart, J.N. Dixit. The Indian foreign secretary will meet Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali today and the third round of talks will begin after the meeting.

Describing the current rounds of talks between Pakistan and India as satisfactory, the Indian foreign secretary said that he has found an extremely reasonable and conducive atmosphere at every stage of the talks in Pakistan. Speaking to newsmen in Islamabad yesterday evening, he said the first round was held in a cordial atmosphere. During the first sitting, the two sides presented their views on Kashmir in a realistic manner. He said now it should be seen as to how can we make further progress in this direction.

Pakistan Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M. Khan, who was present on the occasion, told newsmen that they held detailed and serious discussions on the core issue of the Kashmir problem, which was the central point of the first round of talks.

Kashmir Talks Conclude

BK0301111494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] The seventh round of foreign secretary level talks between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir problem and other issues ended in Islamabad this afternoon. The foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar M. Khan, and his Indian counterpart Mr. J.N. Dixit led the delegations of the respective countries at the two-day talks.

Our representative says although details of the talks are not yet available, the two sides held extensive discussions during the three sessions on all aspects of the Kashmir issue. It was for the first time that Kashmir issue was on top of the agenda.

The Indian foreign secretary also called on the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, this afternoon.

Joint Statement Issued

BK0301144494 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Pakistan has made it clear to India that no further talks will be possible unless situation in occupied Kashmir is improved and human right violations are stopped. This was stated by Foreign Secretary Mr. Shaharyar M. Khan while talking to newsmen at Islamabad Airport after the departure of the Indian foreign secretary.

[Begin Khan recording] We shall not schedule any talks, either at the foreign secretary level or at any other level, until there is a visible improvement of the situation in Indian-held Kashmir.

Pakistan maintained its principled position that a solution to the Kashmir issue lay in a plebiscite on the basis of UN resolutions.

For Pakistan, the people of Kashmir are the central players, because it is they who must determine their future.

We believe that everyone concerned—the Security Council, India, Pakistan, we have all agreed to a method, a format for ascertaining the wishes of the Kashmiri people and that is in a plebiscite. [end recording]

Earlier, addressing a joint press conference at the airport before his departure, the Indian foreign secretary said we have met after such a long time and have addressed the specific question of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Shaharyar M. Khan said that it was the first time that both sides agreed to discuss the question of Kashmir meaningfully and purposefully. Both the foreign secretaries agreed that the Kashmiris are central to the problem and they would be taken into confidence for the resolution of the Kashmir problem.

In a joint statement issued in Islamabad today at the end of the two-day talks, Pakistan and India reiterated the need to engage in a meaningful dialogue with a view of addressing all the outstanding problems, including Jammu and Kashmir. The statement said the talks addressed all aspects of Jammu and Kashmir problem, and both sides recognized that there are basic divergences. It was agreed that sincere efforts would be made to resolve the problem. The statement said the two sides will consult each other on the question of further talks at the foreign secretary level or any other level.

At the conclusion of the third round of talks between Pakistan and India, the Indian delegation led by the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, called on the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, at the Foreign Office. Other members of the Indian delegation also attended the meeting. Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M. Khan and other members of the Pakistan delegation were also present during the meeting.

Senate Demands India Withdraw From Kashmir

BK3012151593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] The Senate today unanimously adopted a resolution demanding an end to repressive measures by the Indian forces and withdrawal of troops to pave the way for implementation of the UN resolutions to hold plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir. On a motion moved under Rule 194 by Professor Khurshid Ahmad and the leader of the opposition, Mr. Mohammad Ali Khan, the house adopted a substantive resolution on Indo-Pakistan negotiations on Kashmir. The resolution expressed deep concern over the repressive measures by the Indian occupation forces against the Kashmiris struggling for liberation of occupied territory and atrocities let loose against the innocent people. The resolution also demanded release of political leadership of the Kashmir liberation movement and bringing an end to violations of human rights and repression against the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The resolution called upon the government to hold negotiations for a final solution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions and commitment of the government of India and that of Pakistan. The resolution further said that unless the Kashmir dispute, which is the main issue between India and Pakistan, is decided, negotiations on other issues, like normalization of relations, economic cooperation, Siachen, and Wular Barrage, would be tantamount to sidetracking the real issue. Those who participated in the debate on the motion besides the movers are: Federal Minister for Special Education Dr. Sher Afghan, Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq, Manzoor Ahmad Gichki, Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, Syed Mohammad Fazal Agha, Syed Fasih Iqbal, retired Justice Zakiuddin Pal, and the leader of the house, Malik Mohammad Qasim.

The Senate also decided to constitute a special committee on Kashmir. The house took the decision on a motion by the minister for law, justice and parliamentary affairs, Syed Iqbal Haider. The chairman of the Senate will decide about the composition of the committee. The committee will monitor violations of human rights and atrocities being committed by the Indian forces in the occupied Kashmir to mobilize world opinion in support of the cause of the Kashmiris as well as stand of the government of Pakistan. The house will now meet on Sunday afternoon.

JKLF Leader Returns From Belgium

BK3012143093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Chairman, Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front [JKLF], Mr. Amanullah Khan, arrived in Karachi early this morning after being released by the Belgian Government. He was received at the airport by the Kashmiri leaders and a large number of party workers. They chanted slogans in favor of independence of Kashmir and condemned the continuing Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir. Mr. Amanullah was arrested in Brussels on 18 October when he had gone to attend a seminar on Kashmir.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, the chairman, JKLF, welcomed the secretary-level talks on Kashmir between Pakistan and India, which are scheduled to be held in Islamabad on Sunday [2 January]. The Kashmiri leader, however, emphasized that the Kashmir problem must be resolved in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Says Release Humiliates India

BK3112092093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Amanullah Khan, chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, has arrived in Karachi after his release by the Belgian Government in Brussels. Addressing a group of Kashmiris, Amanullah Khan said that his release is a victory for the cause of the Kashmiris, and that this has brought great humiliation to India.

Criticizes Talks With India

BK0101110094 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Jan 94 pp 1, 10

[Text] Rawalpindi, Dec 31—Amanullah Khan, the chief of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) has called upon the Governments of India and Pakistan to quit Kashmir and hand it over to the United Nations.

The Kashmir leader rejected the talks between the Foreign Secretaries of Pakistan and India which are starting in Islamabad Sunday.

He was addressing a public rally on Friday soon after his arrival here from Brussels via Karachi.

Amanullah was arrested in Belgium on Oct 18 while he was undertaking an extensive tour of Europe at the invitation of the Socialist Group of the European Parliament.

Although India tried its level best to get him extradited to India, the pressure from Pakistan and several European quarters frustrated the Indian move. He remained in a Belgium jail for 72 days.

He said the Kashmiris would not accept any agreement reached between Pakistan and India without the participation of the Kashmiris. "How can these two countries decide the fate of over 12 million Kashmiris?" he asked.

The two countries, Amanullah claimed, "are not serious in holding the dialogue because such a dialogue, if at all it is necessary to be held, should have taken place at the level of the Prime Ministers." "The Foreign Secretaries are no better than clerks," he said, adding, "What they decide would carry no weight for the Kashmiris." [punctuations as published]

Reiterating the JKLF position on Kashmir, he called upon India and Pakistan to vacate the Valley and hand it over to the United Nations.

Elaborating further, he said the UN administration should not include any representation from the US. The mandate of the UN administration should be to hold plebiscite in Kashmir after five years, he added.

Describing his release by the Belgian authorities a victory for the Kashmiris' struggle, he argued the Kashmiris have now also won on the legal front. "The fact," he said, "that I have been released by a neutral court indicates that the Kashmiris' stand is just."

The JKLF chief said although he was given on opportunity to use his right to bail by the Belgian authorities, he refused to avail himself of the facility because he was a political prisoner. He said his release was a victory for the oppressed and the freedom fighters of Kashmir.

Earlier Amanullah Khan was warmly received by hundreds of his party workers at the airport when he arrived here from Karachi. He was brought to the city in a big procession. The processionists kept raising slogans in favour of independence for Kashmir.

Islamabad Foreign Office Views Bomb Blasts

BK0201144294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] There has been reports of a series of bomb blasts in Doda, Bhadarwah, and Kishtwar areas of Jammu region in occupied Kashmir. Commenting on the explosions, a Foreign Office spokesman said this is a manifestation of the alienation of the people of Kashmir with Indian rule and their response to brutal repression by occupation troops. The situation in Jammu region is reported tense following the bomb blasts at various places. Indian troops have shot dead another five people during siege and search operations in Ganderbal, Khaniyar, Badgam, and (Laulab) areas. A number of people were also rounded up during the operations. Mojahedin in retaliation have attacked bunkers and other military targets in nine localities of Srinagar. Several troops were injured when Mojahedin launched a surprise attack on an Indian army contingent near Kulgam area. Two bridges of military importance were also destroyed by Mojahedin in Jammu region.

'Deep Concern' Expressed Over Afghan Fighting

BK0301024794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Pakistan has appealed to Afghan leaders to end their conflict and hold political negotiations to resolve their differences. A Foreign Office spokesman expressed deep concern over the escalation of fighting between rival factions in Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif. The spokesman said the use of force is not the right method to resolve political differences and disputes. The military success of one faction over another will only be temporary and it can widen the area of confrontation, thereby affecting national unity. He said the Afghan leaders should resume the process of reconciliation in order to meet the need of the hour. He said the Islamabad and Jalalabad accords reached between mojahedin organizations last year were based on national consensus and they provide the base for a durable political settlement that can restore peace in Afghanistan.

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